

WASHINGTON STATE COMMISSION ON HISPANIC AFFAIRS (CHA)



2009-2010 Washington State
Latino/Hispanic
Assessment Report

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<i>Alicia Luna, Monica Maria Becerril Ugalde</i>	

About the Cover:

The cover art for this year's CHA Assessment, by Mexican artist Rafael López, was also used in a book inspired by a grassroots movement to create an official day for children in America. During "Children's Book Week" people can go to libraries, check out books and read them at parks. The goal was to motivate and inspire people to join the movement. It talks about the many ways you can enjoy a book either with friends, in other languages, riding an elephant or a hot air balloon, reading to your pets or reading at the end of the day to the Moon.

About the Artist:

Growing up in Mexico City, López was immersed in the rich cultural heritage and native color of street life. Influenced by Mexican surrealism, dichos and myths, he developed a style with roots in these traditions, fusing a strong graphic style with magical symbolism. Rafael divides his time between his studios in the colonial town of San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, and San Diego, CA., where he works and lives with his wife and son. His work has been selected in numerous juried shows and his children's books have won 2 American Awards and a Pura Belpre Honor. His 2008 poster "Voz Unida" was selected by the Obama/Biden campaign as an official poster at Artists for Obama. His Latino dance stamp, created for the United States Postal Services, was featured on the cover of the commemorative stamp yearbook in 2006 and at a special Trendsetters exhibition at the Smithsonian. His 2007 USPS stamp celebrated an important legal case in equality of education called Mendez vs. Westminster. In 2009 he was invited to create 3 paintings for Oprah Winfrey's school in South Africa. His work is in national and international collections, among them: Amnesty International, Apple, Chicago Tribune, Harper Collins, IBM, Intel, Los Angeles Times, the Grammy Awards, and World Wildlife fund.

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Message from the Chair



This year has definitely been a challenging one. Our economic downfall has affected all of us one way or another, and the Commission, as other State agencies, was severely affected by the 2009 budget cuts. This is therefore limiting the number of public meetings usually held by the Commission. However, the Commissioners are committed in finding creative ways in continuing our outreach efforts in spite of these cuts. One way is through social media such as Facebook and radio. We are now posting information. Check it out!

In spite of all these gloomy budget cuts, the Commission has been very busy. For example, earlier this year we received funds for the specific purpose of assessing the Latino Education Achievement Gap in the State of Washington. This allowed us the opportunity to contract with the University of Washington to conduct this study. I strongly urge everyone to read this report. We also partnered with the Latino Community Fund to bring the 2009 Latino Summit held this past Fall in Bellevue.

Although for the time being we will hold fewer public meetings, the Commission will continue to strive to improve public policy development and the delivery of government services to the Hispanic community. The Commission will continue to work in the area of education, health care, farmworker protection, housing, and economic development in the Hispanic community.

The Commission will continue to fight for a stronger voice, a more responsive government and better overall conditions for all Hispanics in Washington State. Improving the lives of Hispanics in the state will ultimately improve the well being of all the residents of Washington.

By working together we can make our community a healthy one through an emphasis on education and mentoring, and encouraging community involvement at all levels of government, whether it is public office, local commissions or advisory boards, or as a school volunteer.

In closing I would like to thank our Commissioners, and those that recently left the Commission, for all the many hours of volunteer work they give to the Commission. The Commissioners are truly dedicated to the well being of our Latino Community. This report will demonstrate their work. I encourage you to contact your local Commissioner with issues affecting the Latino Community, or thank them for their work representing you in State Government. And last, but not least, I want to acknowledge the tremendous amount of work from our Executive Director Uriel Iniguez and Executive Assistant Alicia Luna, as well as all the interns we have had this year. It is with their guidance and support that Commissioners are able to deliver results in working with the community. Gracias!

We hope that you will enjoy our Annual Report.

Sincerely,
Lourdes Portillo Salazar

Acknowledgements



Our achievements and work in progress would not have been possible without strong partnerships with organizations, individuals, institution, Legislators, state agencies, and the countless interns from St. Martin's University, Evergreen State College, South Puget Sound Community College, and Pacific Lutheran in Tacoma as well as our volunteers; Nina Hinton, Don Barker, Adela Bedolla, Caitlin Simmons, Chris Wade, Jean Bohling, Jared Gum, Lesley Deaton, Maggie Hopper, Peou Parker, Ricardo Diaz, Zoe Hatzfeld-Hecht, Larayne Reyes, Breanna Klassen, Jeremy Sawyer, Jessica Edwards, Jody-Anne Cherish, Mandie Lutz, Raymond Perez, Xin Huang, Susan Jones, Nicole Peger, Maria Solorio, Salima Benkhalti, Natan Antolin, and Monica Becerril Ugalde. We'd also like to acknowledge WSU in particular Michael Gaffney, Christina Sanders, and Jose Garcia-Pabon for their collaboration in the training of our Commissioners and Meg Jones for her time, effort, and guidance with our strategic plan.

Lastly but not least, our thanks and gratitude to the Commissioners that we bid farewell during 2007-2009: Ruben Baca, Rebecca Villareal, Yvonne Lopez-Morton, Gabriel Portugal, Bob Cepeda, Victor Chacon, Ninfa Gutierrez, Felix Negrón, Jorge Chacon, and Henry Cruz and a great colleague and passionate advocate of pesticide programs including illness monitoring and prevention for Latino farm workers, and their families; Cheryl Hanks.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING COMMISSIONERS WHO ALSO SERVED DURING 2007-2009:

Ruben Baca; represented Island, Whatcom, San Juan, Skagit, and Snohomish counties.

Bob Cepeda; represented Ferry, Lincoln, Pend, Spokane, and Stevens counties

Jorge Chacón; represented Chelan, Douglas, and Okanogan counties.

Victor Chacón; represented Asotin, Columbia, Garfield, Walla Walla, and Whitman counties.

Henry Cruz; represented Clallam, Jefferson, Kitsap, and Mason counties. Commissioner Cruz served as Chair of the Justice & Equity Committee.

Idalia Apodaca; represented Ferry, Lincoln, Pend, Spokane, and Stevens counties.

Yvonne Lopez-Morton; represented Ferry, Lincoln, Pend, Spokane, and Stevens counties. Commissioner Lopez-Morton served as Chair during her term.

Gabriel Portugal; represented Adams, Benton, Franklin, and Grant counties. Commissioner Portugal served as Chair and Vice-Chair during his two terms.

Felix L. Negrón; represented Grays Harbor, Lewis, and Pacific counties.

Rebecca Villareal; represented Clallam, Jefferson, and Kitsap counties.

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Commissioners and Staff



Ty Cordova

Mr. Cordova was appointed Commissioner for Pierce County on April 16, 2007. He currently serves as Vice Chair. Commissioner Cordova is a graduate of New Mexico State University with a degree in Business Administration and a minor in Marketing. He currently is

on the management team of the Public Affairs and Marketing department for State Farm Insurance in DuPont, WA. His responsibilities include overseeing media, legislative, community and multi-cultural relations for the entire Pacific Northwest zone.



Rosa M. Fernández

Ms. Fernández was appointed Commissioner for the Adams, Benton, Franklin, and Grant Counties on November 20, 2008. She is part of the Justice & Equity Committee. Commissioner Fernández is a Bilingual Elections Program Coordinator with the Franklin Auditor's Office. Her

responsibilities include developing and implementing a bilingual (English/Spanish) on-going election program to assure compliance with the Spanish language requirements mandated by federal law.



Gilberto F. Mireles

Dr. Mireles was appointed Commissioner for the Asotin, Columbia, Garfield, Walla Walla, and Whitman Counties on November 20, 2008. He is part of the Justice & Equity Committee. Commissioner Mireles received his BA in Sociology with honors from Swarthmore College in 1996. He also

holds an M. Phil (2003) and a PhD (2005) in Sociology from Yale University. He currently is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Whitman College. His research focuses on the socio-political integration of immigrant communities into U.S. society.



Manuel Villafán

Mr. Villafán was appointed Commissioner for Kittitas and Yakima counties on March 5, 2009. He is part of the Education Committee. Commissioner Villafán received a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Washington State University in Pullman, WA. He is a Family Support Specialist with Enterprise for Progress

in the Community's (EPIC) early childhood education division. He works with low-income families connecting them to resources in the community as well as educates them on their rights and responsibilities.



Lillian Ortiz-Self

Ms. Ortiz-Self was appointed Commissioner for the Island, Whatcom, San Juan, Skagit, and Snohomish Counties on December 19, 2007. She currently serves as Chair of the Education Committee. Commissioner Ortiz-Self has a Master's in Public Administration and a Master's in Counseling from Drake

University in Des Moines, Iowa. She is a Counselor at Everett High School. Her job experiences include: serving as the Clinical Director of a Mental Health Center, Regional Coordinator for the Illinois State Board of Education, Education Advisor for the Department of Children and Family Services, and Director and Founder of the CU Project, a center for Latino families and youth. She has extensive clinical practice serving youth with severe emotional disorders and their families. She started the Latin Image Club to help Latino youth bridge barriers to achieve academic success. She is also the founder of Neema Counseling Services, a center that provides counseling, consultation and training regarding youth and family issues.



Rosalba D. Pitkin

Ms. Pitkin was appointed Commissioner for the Clark, Cowlitz, Pacific, Skamania, and Wahkiah counties on July 31, 2007. She is part of the Education Committee. Commissioner Pitkin began her education in the United States in an ESL class and worked her way through the US

higher education system earning a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration at New Mexico State University. She currently is an ABE, GED, ESL Curriculum Advisor and Program Coordinator for ESL and Latino Outreach at Clark College. Commissioner Pitkin serves students and members of the Vancouver community who want to enroll in ABE, GED, and ESL classes. She advises and orients students wanting to pursue an Associate's Degree.



Lourdes Portillo Salazar

Ms. Portillo Salazar was appointed Commissioner for King County in November 24, 2004 and later reappointed to serve her second term on August 2, 2008. She currently serves as Chair of the Commission. Commissioner Portillo Salazar is a Program Coordinator with

the Probation Division for the City of Bellevue. She helped develop the initial Spanish language defendant intake program, thus making it possible for Spanish-speaking inmates to understand the complexities of Probation and Court requirements and to successfully complete the probation process.

Staff

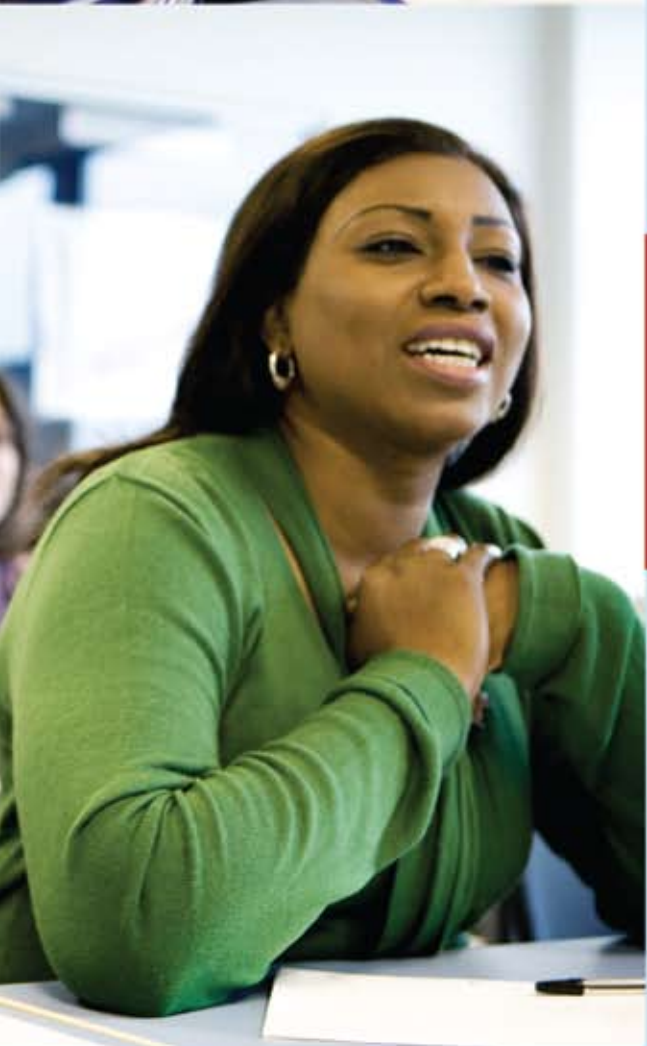


Uriel Iñiguez

Mr. Iñiguez was appointed by Governor Christine Gregoire as Executive Director of the Commission on Hispanic Affairs on June 2005. Prior to his appointment as Executive Director, he worked for the Department of Corrections, and served as volunteer Commissioner for the Commission on Hispanic Affairs. During his tenure in the Department of Corrections, he held the positions of Community Corrections Officer, Prison Counselor, Regional Correctional Manager, Associate Superintendent, Field Administrator, and Management Services Chief. Mr. Iñiguez holds a BA in Human Resources Management from Eastern Washington University and a Master's degree in Public Administration from City University. He is an immigrant from Mexico. He currently is a member of

the Washington Supreme Court Diversity Community, DSHS's Diversity Committee, DSHS's Economic Services Advisory Committee, Construction Center for Excellence Steering Committee, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction Bilingual Advisory Committee, South Puget Sound Community College Advisory Board, Federal Way School District Heritage Leadership Camp, KCTS Hispanic Advisory Board, and a volunteer soccer coach for the Olympia Youth Soccer Club.

Alicia Luna is the Executive Assistant of the CHA. Ms. Luna has over 20 years experience in the property management industry.



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Introduction



Welcome to the 2009 Washington State Latino/Hispanic Assessment Report. This biennial report is intended to be a definitive and comprehensive resource on the status of Hispanics in Washington. The Assessment Report is intended for public officials and government agencies at the local, state, and federal level. Service providers who work with the Hispanic population will also find the information contained in this report useful. However, we hope this report will find a much wider audience among all Washingtonians with a desire to learn more about the fastest growing minority group in the state.

This report is the result of efforts taken by the Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs. The commission was created in 1971 by a Governor's executive order. As mandated by the state legislature, the Commission on Hispanic Affairs strives to improve public policy development and the delivery of government services to the Hispanic community. To meet this objective the Commission began documenting information for this biennial report in 2005. A primary objective of the commission is to work towards the elimination of social, political, and economic disparities that serve as barriers to equitable progress for all the state's residents. It is with this goal in mind that we have compiled the following information.

This report is a collaborative effort written by academics and experts from across the state. These individuals are recognized by their peers as being leaders in their fields. We hope that their expertise will serve to guide policy makers and influence the way state agencies work with the Washington's Hispanics.

The report covers major social, economic, and political issues affecting the Hispanic community in the state. We open however, with a short history of Hispanics in Washington. Professor Garcia makes clear the long history and significant contributions of Hispanics to our great state. The Hispanic presence in Washington should therefore not be considered to be a recent phenomenon. Hispanics have been able contributors to the economic development of the region since before statehood. What is also evident are the contributions outside the labor force; most notably national defense. Indeed, Professor Garcia demonstrates that many Hispanics first came to the state as service members stationed at different military bases across Washington. These facts are important to remember in light of the Commission's work towards the fair and equitable treatment of all the state's residents. While the state has witnessed significant recent growth in the Hispanic population, Hispanics are not newcomers. The work of the commission seeks to recognize and equitably reward Hispanics for their contributions to our state.

This illuminating history is followed by four sections. Section one of the report deals with social conditions including education, health, criminal justice, consumer fraud and immigration. The education and immigration entries are particularly important to consider as these issues have a disproportionately negative impact on the lives of Washington Hispanics and require urgent attention. Section two provides a detailed and thorough assessment of the economic issues affecting the state's Hispanic population. The entries in this section include Hispanic economic status, home ownership rates, a small business report, and an economic outlook. The third section deals with political participation and barriers to involvement in the political process. Professor Avila's assessment and prescription for increased political accessibility should be carefully read by anyone who seeks a truly representative democratic system. The final section introduces the State Hispanic Commission and reviews our activities over the past two years.

We hope you find this report useful. We encourage you to contact us with any questions or suggestions you may have.

Gilberto F. Mireles, PhD
Editor

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History of Latinos in the Northwest

- History of Latinos in the Northwest
- Latinos in Washington State Today

Jerry Garcia, PhD

The history and movement of Latinos into the Pacific Northwest and specifically Washington is long and varied. This history is intertwined with the Spanish explorations of the sixteenth century, continuing through the colonial period, followed by the migration of Mexicans in the nineteenth century and the settling out patterns of a larger Latino community in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.¹

¹ To be inclusive of all those who consider themselves Latino, this term is used throughout this essay. However, as is noted in the brief historical overview, individuals of Mexican origin continue to be the largest Latino group in the nation and state. Until the late twentieth century Latinos in Washington was primarily a Mexican affair.



History of Latinos in the Northwest

Colonial Pioneers: 1550s-1800s

Although many historians point to Juan Perez's voyage of 1774 as the first by a Spaniard to reach the Northwest coastline, new revelations indicate that Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo explored the region as early as 1542-1543. To further illustrate the Latino presence during this period many of those early Spanish explorers were Mexican-born Spanish subjects. However, a more sustained exploration of Washington did not begin until the late eighteenth century with Spanish Captain Juan Perez who anchored off Vancouver Island in the early 1770s. Shortly afterwards Bruno Haceta and Juan de la Bodega explored the Olympic Peninsula. In the end the Spanish/Latino crew made four expeditions to Washington State during the 1700s. In the process, two settlements were established in the 1790s at Neah Bay (Nuñez Goana) and Vancouver Island. Nuñez Goana (est. 1792) was the first non-Native settlement in the state of Washington.

Two Mexicans in particular contributed greatly to early knowledge of Washington State. José Mariano Moziño participated in the 1792 expedition, known as the Malaspian

Expedition. He produced an ecological catalog of 200 species of plants, animals, and birds. He documented his research in *Noticias de Nuka: An Account of Nootka Sound* in 1792. Also a member of the Malaspian Expedition, Anastasio Echeverría was considered the best artist in Mexico at the time. Echeverría sketched one of the first detailed landscape profiles of the area. The Spanish expeditions to Washington State made many discoveries, but by the late eighteenth century, conflicts in Europe and Latin America forced Spain to abandon its claim to the region. In 1819, the United States and Spain signed the Adams-Onís Treaty in which Spain gave up its claim to the Pacific Northwest and sold Florida to the U.S. Washington became part of Oregon Territory in 1848, became Washington Territory in 1853, and became a state in 1889. Through it all, the Latino legacy remained.

Latino Presence and Contributions: Nineteenth Century

The second half of the nineteenth century marks important developments in Washington. The era represents the increase of a U.S. military presence, the removal of the indigenous population from their ancestral homelands, the expansion of European American settlement, and eventual statehood for Washington. This period also represents a continued Latino presence and experience in the region due to the expansion in cattle ranching, trade transportation, mining, and other economic activities associated with the settlement and formation of the Northwest territories.

Before statehood, Latinos contributed to the early economic development of the region. After 1819 two economies developed in Washington State: fur trapping and mining. Latinos were not instrumental to the fur trapping business, but they created the backbone of the transportation system for the mining economy of the late nineteenth century.

The Mexican mule-pack system was in regular use in the mining economy of California during the mid-eighteenth century.

The discovery of gold in British Columbia and Idaho during the late 1850s prompted many miners to go through the future Washington State and stop there to purchase provisions.

Before the 1870s the lack of commercial overland transportation hindered development of Washington Territory. Walla Walla was center of mining activity and by 1870 had a large Mexican population, which developed the region's first dependable means of commercial transportation. However, the formation of significant and permanent Latino communities did not emerge in Washington until the twentieth century.



Latinos and El Norte: Early Twentieth Century Settlement Patterns

The emergence of Latino communities in Washington was the result of several factors. First, the development of Mexico's northern region and the American southwest in the early twentieth century, which pushed thousands of Mexicans towards the north and eventually into the United States. Simultaneously, Mexico experienced political turmoil with its revolution. Between 1910 and 1920 nearly 500,000 Mexicans had fled to the U.S. The expansion of the U.S. agriculture industry and the Mexican Revolution resulted in a large increase in the Mexican population along the U.S.-Mexican border, which in turn created competition for work where supply surpassed demand. The over supply of labor created the movement of large numbers of Mexicans to regions outside of the Southwest and into places like the Northwest, which created the first Latino migratory routes into Washington.

A number of historians have documented the arrival of Latinos into the state as early as 1907. Although the Mexican Revolution caused much of this movement, it should be noted that labor recruitment played a crucial role in bringing Mexicans into Washington to work in the salmon canneries of Seattle. Immigration policy of the early twentieth century also played a role in establishing a Latino presence in Washington. Due to labor shortages in the agriculture industry the head tax and literacy tests of the 1917 Immigration Act were waived for Mexicans employed by the Utah and Idaho Sugar Company. As agricultural production exploded in Washington so did the presence of Latinos. Other industries such as timber, railroad, and construction companies recruited Latino labor to the state during the 1920s.

The 1930 Census provided the first and only time the label Mexican was used as a racial category with limited results. Many Latinos during this era refused to identify as Mexicans, thus an accurate count remained elusive. Nevertheless, the 1930 census counted 1.3 million individuals of Mexican ancestry in the country. Washington State had a Latino population of approximately one thousand individuals. However, with the economic downturn and depression of the late 1920s and early 1930s Latino immigration to the state, like elsewhere, significantly dropped. Indeed, communities with large Mexican populations instigated deportation drives of Mexican labor with the worst occurring in places such as California, Michigan, and Indiana. Washington was not immune to these deportations even though the state had a relatively small Mexican population. For example, the city of



History of Latinos in the Northwest



Spokane rounded up what few Mexicans could be found and had them deported. Another source indicates that officials interested in lowering incarceration costs agreed to commute the jail sentences of Mexican prisoners if they consented to deportation. As a result, ninety Mexican prisoners at McNeil Federal Penitentiary were returned to Mexico in 1932. Overall, there is no reliable way to estimate how many Latinos arrived or were recruited to Washington during the 1930s. However, newspaper accounts, images, diaries, and interviews indicate that the Great Depression did not stop growers from recruiting Latino migratory workers to the region.

Prior to the outbreak of U.S. involvement in World War II, the U.S. had an overall Latino population of 1.6 million. Washington State had a Latino population of approximately 2,500 individuals. With U.S. involvement in the war dramatic changes occurred throughout the nation and the state. The mobilization for the war effort created critical shortages of labor throughout the country. For the state of Washington a critical labor shortage occurred in agriculture and as a result state and federal officials organized a two-prong approach to alleviate the shortage. First, it increased labor recruitment of primarily Mexican Americans from Texas, California, Colorado, and Wyoming. Second, the U.S. government entered into a bilateral agreement with Mexico for the importation of Mexican nationals (males) to work in agriculture and the railroad industry. This bilateral agreement became known as the Bracero Program ². By 1945 Washington State comprised six percent of the total number of Braceros imported to the United States. For Washington State the use of Braceros lasted from 1943-1947 with 16,182 Braceros employed throughout Washington. Unlike those in the Southwest, Northwest braceros endured colder winters and received little protection from U.S. and Mexican government officials. A series of Bracero strikes and high transportation costs convinced Washington farmers to stop importing Braceros in 1947 and shift to Mexican migrant families from Texas and other Southwest states.

Simultaneously during the war years other Latinos were arriving in Washington as service members of the U.S. Armed Forces who were stationed at Ft. Lewis and Ft. Lawton near Tacoma and Seattle, Fairchild Airbase in Spokane, and Larsen Airfield in Moses Lake, and Ephrata Air Terminal. Documentation shows that many of the Latino military personnel stationed in Washington during World War II remained after the war rather than return to the Southwest. Overall during the 1940s a large number of Latinos from various occupational backgrounds came to Washington due to the war effort and participated either as Braceros, farm laborers, or as U.S. military personnel. This movement resulted in a large increase in the Latino population and the creation of vibrant communities throughout Washington. For the state and Latinos, World War II was a watershed moment.

Latino Migration and Community Formation: 1950s

The majority of the Latino population of Washington can trace its roots to the post-World War II era. Several major developments occurred during the 1950s that changed the make-up of the Latino population. First, Latinos became more diverse and urban. Although many Latinos continued to gravitate to rural communities for agricultural work, thousands more traveled to urban centers such as Seattle, Spokane, Yakima, and the I-5 corridor, working in non-agricultural industries or establishing their own businesses. Thus, the post-World War II era illustrates the urbanization of Latinos and their entrepreneurial spirit in Washington. In fact, Latino owned businesses emerged in Seattle and Spokane as early as 1954 and 1960, respectively. In the urban areas the population of Latinos became more diverse, but remained heavily of Mexican origin.


² The term Bracero comes from the Spanish word brazo or arm. Thus, the nickname “bracero” generally refers to those who use their arms for labor.


Second, as water became available to regions such as the Columbia Basin in North Central Washington, additional opportunities and year-round work emerged that created a new wave of migrants to Eastern and North Central Washington. These migrants were primarily from south Texas. Others migrated to other regions of Eastern Washington from the Yakima Valley. Communities such as Quincy, Moses Lake, Royal City, Warden, and Pasco saw their Latino populations increase significantly during the 1950s.

Third, during the early 1950s the U.S. became involved in the Korean Conflict that instigated another wave of Latinos to Washington. Like World War Two, the Korean War created the need for additional labor and Latinos heeded the call for help as farm laborers, and military personnel. This period also showed early signs of a Latino professional class as some Latinos came to Washington with advanced degrees.



Lastly, as the Latino population in Washington matured and the Latino generation returning from World War Two and the Korean Conflict had empowered themselves, Washington became a place where change was needed. The relatively small Latino population organized in a variety of ways during the 1950s in order to exert not only their place in society, but demand the same rights that many had fought and died for in the European and Pacific theatres of war. Latin American Clubs, League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) organizations, and the Mexican American Federation sprang up in many communities such as Seattle, Quincy, Yakima, Othello, Moses Lake, and Olympia. These early signs of community mobilization prepared the Latino community for the explosive and challenging 1960s.







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History of Latinos in the Northwest

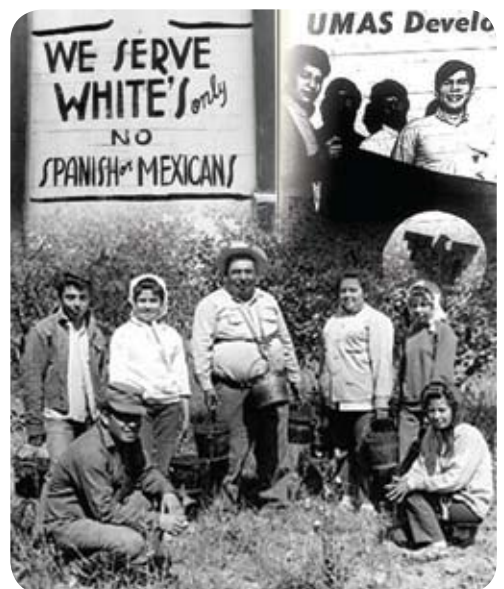


Latin American Refugees and El Movimiento in Washington: 1960s and 1970s

Nationally, by the end of the 1960s there were approximately 9.6 million Latinos in the United States. Latinos in Washington represented roughly 2.1 percent of the overall state population of 3.1 million or about 65,000 Latinos. Through the 1960s and 1970s the Latino population remained mostly of Mexican origin, however, an increasing diversity of the Latino population continued due to U.S. foreign policy in Latin America that was driven by the Cold War. First, a regime change on the island of Cuba in 1959 challenged U.S. hegemony in the region. As animosity developed with the emerging socialist state in Cuba the U.S. subsequently placed an economic embargo on the Castro administration. The result was a large movement of Cubans to the U.S., including a small number

that came to Washington State. The 1960s and 1970s also represent a period when left wing movements in Central and South America began to challenge U.S. supported dictatorships in places such as El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Chile. As revolutions and political turmoil gripped these regions, large numbers of refugees, especially from Central America migrated to the U.S. For example, starting in 1979 Salvadoran rebels fought the U.S. backed national army that resulted in over 75,000 deaths and nearly one million Salvadoran refugees immigrated to the U.S. Guatemala and Nicaragua also exploded into civil wars during the 1970s. Prior to the 1960s Latinos, other than Mexicans, were almost statistically non-existent. U.S. involvement in Latin America during the twentieth century has substantially contributed to the making of the Latino population in the U.S. Likewise, U.S. economic and cultural hegemony have contributed to uprooting Latinos from throughout Latin America and the Caribbean leading to their resettlement in the United States. As the twentieth century came to a close economic and political turmoil in Central and South America resulted in changes in the overall Latino population in Washington State.

There was also a large change in the migrant circuit as more and more Latinos of Mexican origin opted to settle in Washington. Although Latinos' work was welcomed in Washington State, they faced discrimination. As in the Southwest, this led to confrontation during the late 1960s and 1970s. Latinos in Washington State joined the civil rights fight and established a distinct movement of their own. Similar to the Southwest, the civil rights movement for Latinos in Washington began incrementally. As communities throughout Washington came of age they established important community organizations such as Latin American Associations of the early and mid-1960s, which evolved into more politicized entities such as the Progressive League of United Mexican Americans or PLUMA, established in 1967. PLUMA was active in the Columbia Basin during the late 1960s. PLUMA in turn instigated the need for a statewide organization initially known as the Mexican American Federation (MAF),



which was established in 1968 and had active chapters in both Eastern and Western Washington. In fact, MAF is the predecessor to the current Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs.

One of the most important civil rights organizations to emerge from Washington is the United Farm Workers Co-op in Toppenish in 1967. This organization was instrumental with mobilizing the community in regards to farm workers rights, providing low cost food from their co-op, creating a farm workers clinic, and is the precursor to the United Farm Workers of Washington State, that eventually joined Cesar Chavez's national farm workers union, the United Farm Workers of America.



The Latino student population of Washington was crucial in addressing the needs of Chicano and Latino Students in the K-12 system as well as higher education. Students at the University of Washington formed the United Mexican American Students (UMAS) in 1968. This organization evolved into the Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan (MEChA) or the Chicano Student Movement of Aztlan in 1969. Both of these groups mobilized students to demand equality throughout the educational system. Students at the University of Washington formed a chapter of the Brown Berets in 1968 and Chicano activists in the Yakima Valley formed another in 1969. The Brown Berets were often portrayed as a radical, para-military, and nationalistic organization that demanded an end to the occupation of Mexico's northern territory conquered by the United States in 1848. However, in Washington the Brown Berets participated in food drives, raised funds for legal defense, and tutored young students in the Yakima Valley and Seattle area.

In the urban sector El Centro de La Raza was established in 1972 in Seattle, Washington by a group of activists who occupied a vacant school building and refused to leave until the local school district agreed to lease the building for one dollar per year. El Centro is a multi-service community organization. It operates a preschool, provides meals to the needy, offers ESL classes, stages cultural events, and hosts other progressive community initiatives. The early 1970s also represents the establishment of Chicano Studies at the University of Washington, Washington State University, and Eastern Washington University. And in 1979 Radio KDNA was established as Washington's first Spanish language public radio station from Granger, Washington.

The 1960s and 1970s provided numerous challenges to the Latino population in Washington. Because a large contingent of Latinos came as migrant laborers, opportunities were limited due to a lack of upward mobility. However, as the national war on poverty developed agencies began to look for ways to alleviate the causes. Many of the barriers created during this period were also the result of lingering animosity towards Latinos, discrimination, and unequal access to education. Vital to the changes that occurred in the 1960s and 1970s were the Chicano and Latino organizations that emerged and challenged unfair practices of discrimination at all levels of society. Finally, as Latinos began to settle permanently in Washington, the subsequent generations gained and earned opportunities not afforded to their parents.





Growth and Change: 1980s-1990s

The 1980 Census indicated that the Latino population in Washington had grown to 3 percent of the state's total population or approximately 123,000, a significant increase from 1970. As the decade of the 1980s progressed important developments in the economy and immigration policy became national debates as the country plunged into a recession that put immigrant labor within the cross hairs of the immigration question. The result of this debate was the passage of the 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA), and as the name implies, the policy became an additional layer for the control and use of labor. However, these mechanisms of national control of labor did not deter growers and employers from utilizing undocumented Latino labor. The increase in undocumented workers entering the country and working in industries, that had become reliant on immigrant labor, such as the agricultural, service, and construction industries was a symptom of larger forces that included a co-dependency in which workers and growers were reliant on each other, but also an immigration policy that for decades had encouraged the clandestine movement of Latino labor to the United States. Embedded within this new immigration policy was a program allowing undocumented workers to become "legal" residents by meeting certain conditions. Over 32,000 Mexicans in Washington came forward to apply for legal residency and permanently changed the ethnic and demographic make-up of the state. Indeed, the 1980s were a precursor of what was to come in regards to the Latino population in Washington and by the end of the decade the Latino population had nearly doubled to 214,570 persons.

Examining the dramatic change in the Latino population of Washington can easily be illustrated with North Central Washington (NCW) between 1960 and 2000. Between this forty-year span the Latino population grew an astounding 2,257% from 7,596 people to 201,820. During this same period, the white population grew only 21% from 360,702 to 438,135. From 1990-2000 NCW recorded a 140 percent increase in its Latino population, mostly of Mexican origin. Based on the 2000 Census, Mexicans represent large percentages in communities throughout NCW. For example, they represent over 21 percent of Wenatchee's population; 65 percent of Quincy's population; over 25 percent of Moses Lake's population; 60 percent of Brewster's population; 90 percent of Mattawa's population; 65 percent of Bridgeport's population; and 78 percent of Royal City's population. Immigration, coupled with Latinos as the youngest ethnic group in the nation, as well as high fertility rates explain part of the demographic shift that has been occurring.

Latinos, Immigration, and Demographic Shifts: 2000-Present

Latinos today represent the largest minority group in the nation. While the origins of Latinos can be traced worldwide from Central and South America to the Caribbean and Spain, the largest group, Mexicans, have long established migratory routes into the United States.

The 2000 U.S. Census revealed a substantial Latino population growth reaching beyond the traditional zone of the American Southwest. For example, Washington State recorded a Latino population of 441,509. Nationally, between 1990 and 2000 Latinos grew an astonishing 54 percent. The 2006 U.S. Census update revealed continued growth with an overall Latino population approaching 45 million.



While Mexicans in Washington remain the largest Latino segment, other Latinos have also grown significantly. The 2007 American Community Survey showed an increasing diversity among Latino sub-groups in Washington, with different immigration and migration patterns into and within the United States. At the state level Mexican/Mexican Americans remain dominant at 80.1 percent; Puerto Ricans represent 3.7 percent; Central Americans are 4.5 percent; South Americans 2.2 percent; and other Latino 8.8 percent.

As of 2008, there were over 47 million Latinos residing in the United States representing 15.4 percent of the nation's population. With a Latino population of approximately 668,288 or 9.8 percent of the total state population, Washington State has seen a significant increase in its Latino population in the past ten to fifteen years. Indeed, Washington is ranked thirteenth in the nation with its total Latino population. Yet, as has been discussed Latinos are not newcomers to Washington State.

The overall reaction to the demographic shifts of the past two decades has been mixed. While some openly oppose the invitation to immigrants strictly on prejudicial grounds, others are concerned that an unchecked and unplanned growth based on immigration will create more problems than it will solve. Ultimately, the momentum that began decades earlier continues unabated. In the early twenty-first century Latinos remain the fastest growing population segment nationally and in the state of Washington.

More importantly, a critical mass of Latinos has not translated into a political voice, with few Latino elected officials in the entire state, especially at its highest levels. To date there has not been a single U.S. Senator or Congressman of Latino ancestry elected to office, a most troubling fact considering the high concentration of Latinos in certain regions, counties and cities in Washington. Thus, while Latinos are increasing their numbers and contributing to the growth and development of Washington, they remain a politically marginalized group. As this population continues to grow important questions need to be addressed regarding their position and the important role Latinos will have in Washington's future.

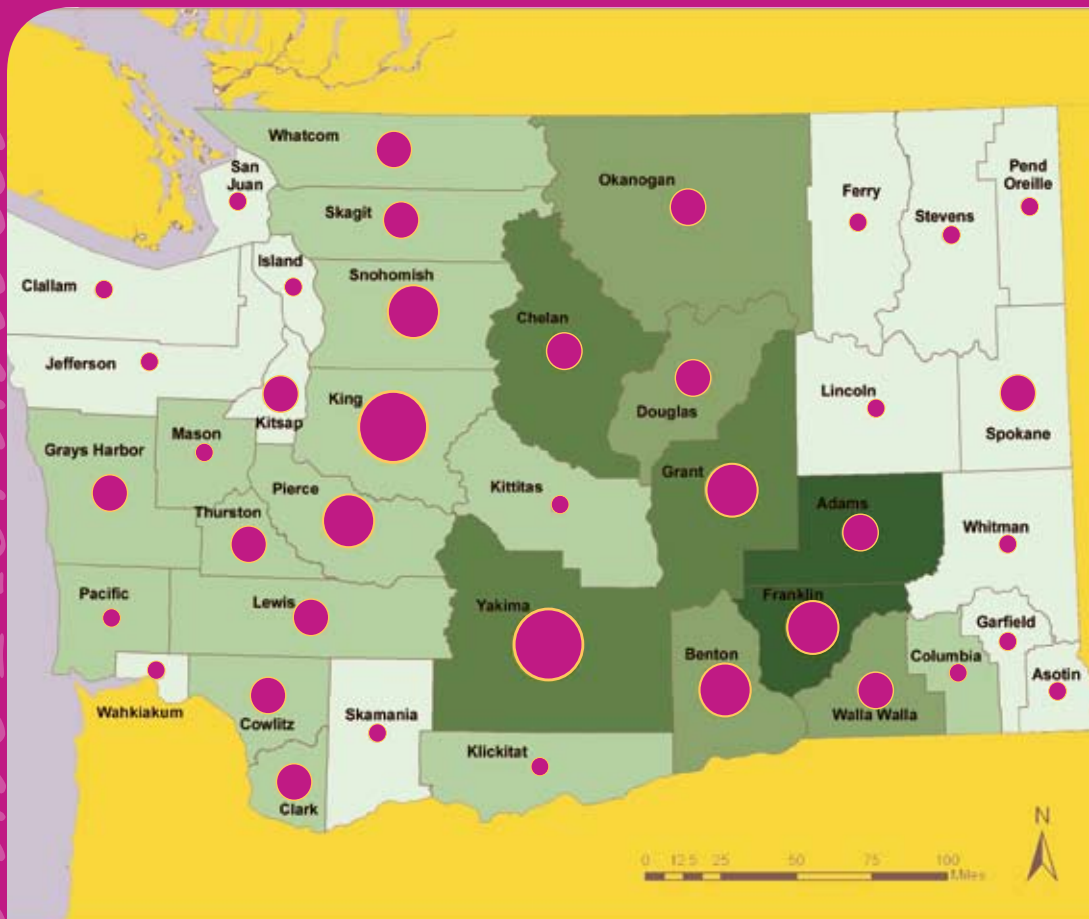
About the Author

Jerry Garcia was born and raised in Quincy, Washington, the heart of the Columbia Basin. Upon graduation from high school, he served three years in Japan with the U.S. Army where he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant. Following his military service he attended Eastern Washington University and received his B.A. in 1987. After three years as a Community Corrections Officer he returned to Eastern Washington University and received his M.A. in History in 1993. Garcia entered the PhD program in History at Washington State University and completed it in 1999 with a dissertation titled "Japanese Immigration and Community Formation in Mexico, 1897-1940."

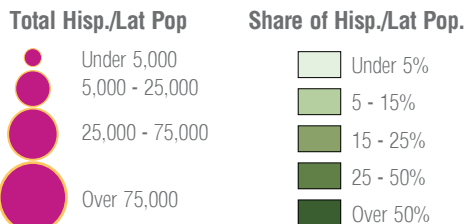
Dr. Garcia's first academic appointment was with Iowa State University, History Department and Latino/a Studies Program from 1999-2004. From 2004 through Fall 2009 Dr. Garcia was an Assistant Professor with the History Department and the Chicano/Latino Studies Department at Michigan State University. Beginning January 2010 Dr. Garcia begins a new appointment as Director of the Chicano Education Program at Eastern Washington University.

A widely published author, Dr. Garcia's upcoming publications include, *Paradox of Whiteness: Myth, Popular Culture, and the Racialization of Mexicans in the United States*; *Japanese Immigration and Community Formation in Mexico, 1897-1945*; *Mexicanos in Greater Aztlan: From the Pacific Northwest to the New South*.

Latinos in Washington State Today



County Name	Total Population	Hisp.Lat. Population	Percent Share
Adams	17,800	9,629	54.1
Asotin	21,400	491	2.3
Benton	165,500	26,869	16.2
Chelan	72,100	18,073	25.1
Clallam	69,200	3,218	4.7
Clark	424,200	24,914	5.9
Columbia	4,100	314	7.7
Cowlitz	99,000	6,048	6.1
Douglas	37,000	9,030	24.4
Ferry	7,700	228	3.0
Franklin	70,200	41,628	59.3
Garfield	2,300	65	2.8
Grant	84,600	30,951	36.6
Grays Harbor	70,900	5,352	7.5
Island	79,300	3,840	4.8
Jefferson	28,800	780	2.7
King	1,884,200	127,933	6.8
Kitsap	246,800	12,143	4.9
Kittitas	39,400	2,589	6.6
Klickitat	20,100	1,953	9.7
Lewis	74,700	5,443	7.3
Lincoln	10,400	248	2.4
Mason	56,300	3,519	6.3
Okanogan	40,100	7,164	17.9
Pacific	21,800	1,457	6.7
Pend Oreille	12,800	267	2.1
Pierce	805,400	54,952	6.8
San Juan	16,100	423	2.6
Skagit	117,500	17,562	14.9
Skamania	10,700	510	4.8
Snohomish	696,600	41,281	5.9
Spokane	459,000	15,287	3.3
Stevens	43,700	928	2.1
Thurston	245,300	13,149	5.4
Wahkiakum	4,100	115	2.8
Walla Walla	58,600	11,542	19.7
Whatcom	191,000	12,230	6.4
Whitman	43,000	1,455	3.4
Yakima	235,900	100,348	42.5
Washington	6,587,600	613,929	9.3



HISPANIC LATINO APRIL 1, 2008, POPULATION ESTIMATE BY RACE BY COUNTY

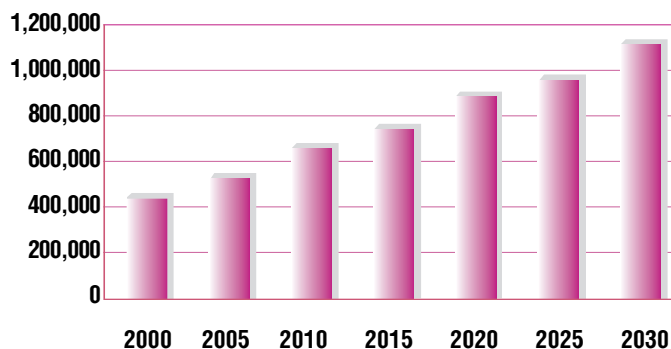
Washington State
Office of Financial Management



Forecasting Division
Kyle Reese-Cassal
October, 2008

Note: Hispanic is an ethnic category; Hispanics can be of any race

WASHINGTON STATE HISPANIC/LATIN POPULATION 2000-2030



Data sources: 2008 county race estimate and projections. Produced by Washington State Office of Financial Management Forecasting

COUNTIES IN WASHINGTON STATE WITH THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE HISPANIC/LATINO POPULATION - 2008

County	Rank	%	Hispanic/Latino	Overall
Franklin	1	59.3	9,629	17,800
Adams	2	54.1	41,628	70,200
Yakima	3	42.5	100,348	235,900
Grant	4	36.6	30,951	84,600
Chelan	5	25.1	18,073	72,100
Douglas	6	24.4	9,030	37,000

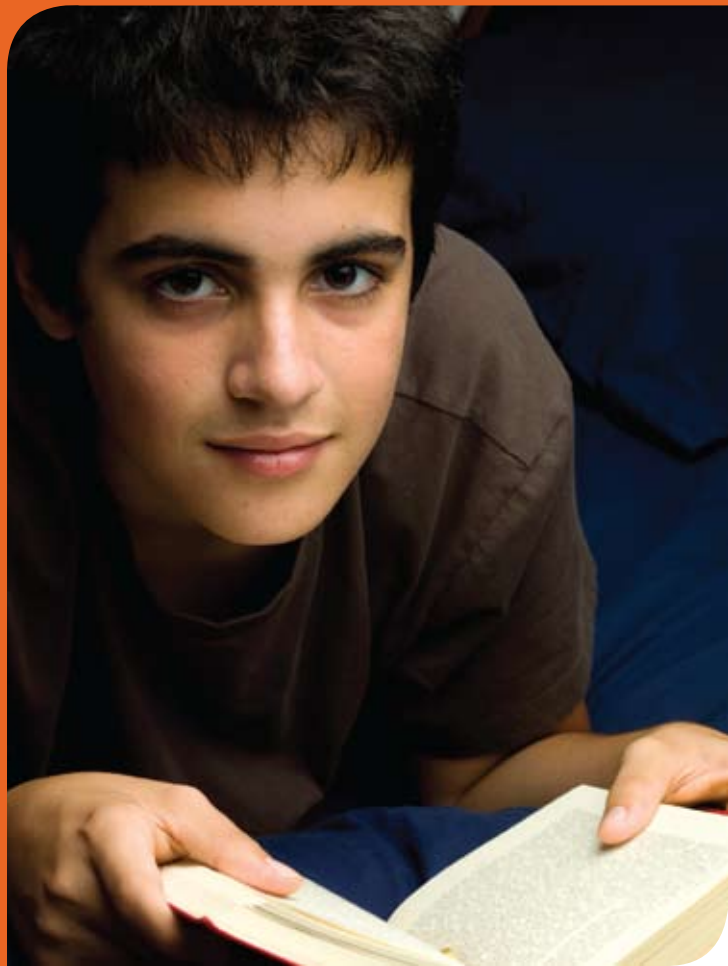
Data sources: 2008 county race estimate and projections. Produced by Washington State Office of Financial Management Forecasting

Social Conditions

- Education (*Frances E. Contreras, PhD*)
- Health (*Monica Maria Becerril Ugalde*)
- Environmental Health (*Carol Dansereau*)
- Criminal Justice (*Henry Cruz, JD*)
- Consumer Fraud (*Elena Huizar Pérez*)
- Immigration (*Jorge Barron, JD*)

The six entries in this section justify the continued need for aggressive work on the part of the State's Hispanic Affairs Commission. Disparities in the areas of education, health, criminal justice and consumer fraud between Hispanics and other Washingtonians are real and they are pervasive. In the area of education, Dr. Contreras and her team of researchers have uncovered systemic differences in the educational experiences of the state's youth. Similarly, health care practitioners across the state observe on a daily basis the disproportionate lack of medical insurance coverage and lack of access to basic health care among the state's Hispanic population. This issue is particularly detrimental for farmworkers and their families for whom exposure to toxic pesticides continues to be a real concern. Hispanic youth and immigrants also face difficulties when dealing with the criminal justice system. As attorney Henry Cruz notes, these two groups are not getting their day in Washington State's courts. Washington's Hispanics remain a vulnerable population. As the state's Attorney General's office has found, Hispanics are more susceptible to various frauds which other groups are not. The Attorney General's office, working in collaboration with the Commission, has developed several consumer outreach programs designed to address these schemes. This is an excellent example of the sort of collaborative efforts between CHA and state agencies to improve the lives of the state's Hispanics. In the future we hope to implement more partnerships such as this one. Hispanic disparities are real and they are pervasive. Only through the concerted efforts of state policy makers and state agencies can we begin to ensure greater equality of social conditions for all Washingtonians.





Challenges and Opportunities for Educating Latinos in Washington State

The population growth among Latinos that Washington State has witnessed over the past 20 years represents a remarkable shift in the composition of the K-12 population to an increasingly multicultural student base. These projections show dramatic growth in the Latino school age population, with a 372 percent increase, compared to only a 6 percent increase for White students.

TABLE I
ESTIMATED GROWTH AMONG STUDENTS IN THE K-12
POPULATION, AGE 5-19 YEARS OLD, SELECT YEARS

Ethnicity	2010	2030	% Growth
White	1,082,473	1,245,876	13.1
African American	59,869	66,227	9.6
American Indian	27,353	30,827	11.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	104,350	158,774	34.3
Latino	203,955	261,943	22.1
N	1,353,095	1,643,405	17.7

Source: Washington State Office of Financial Management, Population Projections, <http://www.ofm.wa.gov/pop/race/projections.asp>

With these demographic changes in the student population, teachers in the state of Washington have seen a transformation in the cultural and linguistic backgrounds of their students. While the student population is changing, the teaching population has remained relatively constant, with an overwhelming majority of teachers in the state monolingual and White. Latino students represented 14.6 percent of the K-12 population in the Fall of 2007, a figure that continues to grow exponentially throughout the state. Latino students are now the single largest ethnic minority group in the state of Washington. And yet, Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) test scores, the cohort high school graduation rates, and college transition rates for Latino students are among the lowest in the state. In addition, over 40 percent of all Latino high school students do not graduate high school (Table II).

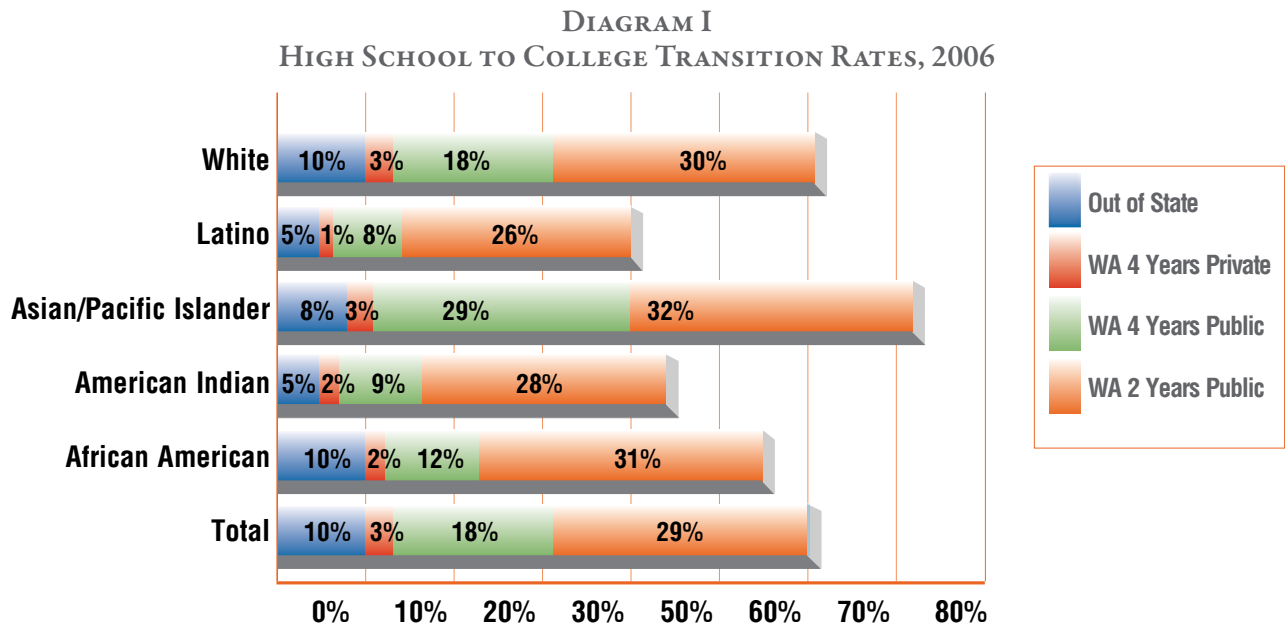
TABLE II:
STUDENT COHORT GRADUATION RATES

Ethnicity	Estimated Cohort Graduation Rates 2003	Estimated Cohort Graduation Rates 2004	Estimated Cohort Graduation Rates 2005
Latino	52.7	50.1	56.9
African American	47.8	45.7	51.8
White	71.5	70.0	72.3
Native American	40.7	36.9	42.7
Asian	72.9	72.9	75.5
All Students	68.2	66.5	68.8

Note: Data reported from the EPE Research Center Education Week's customized tables feature: <http://www.edcounts.org/createtable/viewtable.php>. The tables are calculated using the CPI (Cumulative Promotion Index) calculation method, which calculates the probability of a student completing high school on time. For a detailed description of the CPI calculation method and the related formulas, please see, Swanson, C. & Chaplin, D. (2003). Counting High School Graduates when Graduates Count: Measuring Graduation Rates under the High Stakes of NCLB. The Urban Institute, p. 19.

The economic sustainability of this state will be impacted if the pattern of low investment in Latino students continues, with a workforce unable to compete in a global and highly technical marketplace.

Diagram I illustrates the high school to college transition rates for Latino students compared to their peers in 2006, illustrating the lowest transition rates to four-year public universities and private colleges.



Source: WSU SESRC, College Enrollment Study, 2008

Educational Policy Recommendations for Washington State

In order for academic achievement to significantly improve, and the above data to be altered, systemic improvements in educational services, content and attention are necessary. Five central components are the basis of a plan for strategic intervention that will reduce the achievement gap and help Latino students meet statewide Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) goals. These key components include:

- 1) A comprehensive data system and evaluation framework
- 2) Teachers and instruction
- 3) Student support
- 4) Parent engagement and involvement
- 5) A seamless P-20 continuum

The following specific recommendations stem from a statewide study that examined various aspects of educational service delivery for Latinos in the state by interviewing and surveying students, parents and teachers in public middle and high schools in the state. The key findings and recommendations presented here begin a critical conversation on how to address and raise Latino student achievement:

A Comprehensive Data System and Evaluation Framework

A comprehensive data and evaluation system that monitors annual student achievement and progress longitudinally is not readily available. Researchers are unable to conduct cohort data analysis, monitor access to curriculum, or to closely monitor student progress using multiple measures.

Policy Recommendations:

- The state needs a comprehensive data and evaluation system that closely and accurately monitors graduation rates for Latino and all students, and uses a cohort model to establish tangible goals for significantly reducing dropout rates by 2014.
- Conduct an audit of school districts with Latino school populations of 25 percent or higher, or with more than 1,000 Latino students, in order to understand the capacity that exists for serving English Language Learner (ELL) and Latino students in the state.
- Develop a statewide comprehensive evaluation framework to be utilized by schools and districts to examine opportunities to learn for Latinos, including English Language Learner (ELL) students. This framework would allow districts to utilize state assessment results in a formative manner, as well as create a mechanism for assessing course taking patterns, credits earned in school, program access, and cohort data on linguistic development. This framework would also serve to illuminate the needs of English Language Learner (ELL) students, who represent a sizable portion of Latino students in the state and remain largely underserved in all levels of education.
- The courses taken and credits earned at the time of drop out need to be reported and factored into the calculation of dropouts, and included in the discussions around high dropout rates for students of color at the state level.
- The impact of CORE 24 requirements must be monitored, particularly for English Language Learner (ELL) students. In addition, academic and advising support within schools must accompany these requirements.

Teachers and Instruction

There is a shortage of bilingual, bicultural teachers in the state of Washington despite rapid demographic growth of ELL students statewide. In addition, there is a disconcerting lack of clarity around models used for ELL instruction and a considerable variation regarding the use of para-professionals in the schools with high Latino concentrations.

Latino teachers represent a mere 2.7 percent of the total teaching population in Washington, while Latinos are now 14.7 percent of the student population. The survey findings conducted from this study conveyed a largely first-generation Latino population. This survey revealed that the majority of Latino families speak Spanish as the primary language in the home. This presents a unique challenge to our educational system that cannot be overstated. As a Latino teacher commented: “Latino students need teachers they can connect with. They come to school only to learn that all they have known all their lives is wrong or taboo.”



The United States is nearly alone among developed nations where bilingualism or multilingualism is perceived as a threat rather than an asset. By increasing the level of multiculturalism and linguistic diversity in the teacher workforce, thereby raising the capacity to better educate first-generation students, the state of Washington would be better positioned to be competitive in the global marketplace.

Policy Recommendations:

- Increase teacher diversity by calling for teacher training programs and colleges of education in the state to develop an infrastructure for a “grow your own” program of bilingual/bicultural teachers, and provide teachers with incentives, such as full tuition scholarships, to work in regions where first-generation families live.
- Require all future teachers in Washington State to develop competencies related to meeting the instructional and socio-cultural needs of English Language Learner (ELL) students in order to obtain a teaching certificate.
- Require current teachers to participate in cultural competence training and support teachers to attend professional development opportunities locally and nationally.
- Change state teacher certification to require that initial licensure include training on meeting the needs of English Language Learner (ELL) students and provide for ongoing professional development on effective pedagogical strategies to raise achievement levels among English Language Learner (ELL) students.
- Para-professionals should not be allowed to substitute for teachers in Washington classrooms. While many are bilingual, and capable of providing academic support, the state and districts need to monitor, improve, and clarify the role of staff and the use of para-professionals in schools, because they do not possess the qualifications of classroom teachers. The statewide evaluation framework recommended above would monitor these practices.
- Invest in para-professionals currently working in high concentration Latino school districts to earn their degrees and become certified teachers, and work with districts to provide their staff with support to return to college.

Student Academic Support

Latino student achievement on the WASL is consistently low in all areas, particularly math. This pattern of achievement is also seen in college entrance exams such as the ACT or SAT. For ELL students, achievement levels are even lower, and do not significantly increase as the student progresses through high school, making them unlikely to pass the WASL exit exam.

Policy Recommendations:

- Increase access to curricular resources, materials, and personnel, to support academic achievement and raise the graduation rate of Latino students by 10 percent annually.
- Remove the use of the WASL as an exit exam for high school graduation. The exit exam feature of the WASL places the burden of achievement on the student rather than taking into account the opportunities to learn that exist for students. Assessment is vital and important, but using assessment as a punitive measure for students does very little to improve achievement for Latino or underrepresented students, as evident in the 26 states that use such exit exams.



Parent Engagement and Involvement

Latino parents experience a considerable level of isolation with schools, in part due to a language barrier, but also largely due to an environment in the schools where parents feel unwelcome.

Language was found to be a significant barrier to Latino parent participation in schools. Parents frequently commented that they would like to see more effort by school staff to personally communicate with them about their child's performance in school. In addition, a considerable percentage of parents responded that they needed bilingual services to communicate with teachers and staff, yet over a third of the survey participants (35.4 percent) were not offered a translator when interacting with school personnel.

Policy Recommendations:

- The state should require schools and districts (in addition to those required by federal grant requirements) to communicate effectively with parents whose first language is not English, and utilize multiple approaches of communication. Specifically, the state should require: 1) correspondence be sent home translated in English and Spanish; 2) translators should be offered for parents who do not speak English; 3) greater efforts by school staff should be made to verbally communicate with parents over the phone and in person; and 4) Require school districts to utilize a common, state-developed instrument for principals and parents to determine their effectiveness in communicating with parents whose first language is not English. For parents who are not literate in English, they should be offered the opportunity to complete the survey using a qualified translator. The statewide comprehensive evaluation framework would monitor these practices as well as the capacity of districts to provide these services for Latino parents.

A Seamless P-20 Continuum

A seamless continuum to college does not exist for Latino students. In particular, information about college and financial aid for students is lacking, especially for 1079 students.

The survey results indicated that a very high percentage of Latino students wanted to attend a four- year college after high school (60.2 percent). They also wanted “to know how college works” and greater information on the college application process and requirements. There was also clear misunderstanding of House Bill 1079 (HB 1079), a law approved by the state Legislature in 2003 that allows undocumented students who meet specified criteria to pay in-state tuition to attend Washington colleges and universities. Knowledge and accurate information was lacking in many of the schools and regions that the research team visited to obtain student and parent data.



Policy Recommendations:

- Promote a P-20 continuum by providing early knowledge about college for all Latino students and their parents by hosting parent workshops with information provided in English and Spanish.
- Education about HB 1079 should start prior to high school. The state should provide support to school districts to offer information in English and Spanish for 1079 students and their parents to better understand college admission standards and funding sources.
- Audit the implementation of HB 1079 in higher education systems to determine whether college and university admissions offices are responsibly implementing the law as intended by the Legislature.
- Allow students who qualify as 1079 students to compete for state-funded need grant financial aid.

Summary

Policy makers and educators must transform the current crisis into a call to action for all stakeholders. From the survey results, it is clear that Latino parents and students have very high aspirations for college attainment—Latino families want what all parents want—a better future for their children and to contribute to the fabric of American society. Because Latino parents on average possessed less than a high school education, the data suggests that a good portion of Latino parents in this state are likely to be first generation, which requires greater effort to educate parents and families about the educational system.

Schools and districts can no longer underestimate the current or future demographic growth of the Latino community in Washington. Recognizing and addressing the needs of Latino students in the present, will boost state tax revenues, avoid costs to the state in the future, and will serve an investment in the Washington of tomorrow.

This entry is partially adapted from the following report: Contreras et. al. (2008). Understanding Opportunities to Learn for Latinos in Washington State. Report Prepared for the Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs, December 2008.
www.cha.wa.gov/?q=statistics_reports

About the Author

Frances E. Contreras, PhD is an Assistant Professor at the University of Washington in the College of Education in Leadership and Policy Studies. Dr. Contreras presently researches issues of equity and access for underrepresented students in the education pipeline. She addresses transitions between K-12 and higher education, community college transfer, faculty diversity, affirmative action in higher education and the role of the public policy arena in higher education access for underserved students of color.

Dr. Contreras has conducted research using the College Board Data on Latino high achievers in the United States, and data on the UC system using individual applicant and admission profiles at select UC Campuses. Her most recent manuscript with P. Gandara, “The Latino Education Crisis: The Consequences of Failed Social Policies,” (Harvard University Press, 2009). In addition to publishing in journals such as Educational Policy and the Journal

of Hispanics in Higher Education, she is currently publishing a chapter titled “The Role of High Stakes Testing & Accountability in Educating Latinos” in E. Murillo, *The Handbook of Latinos and Education: Research Theory & Practice* (2009), and an article in the Harvard Educational Review titled, “Sin Papeles y Rompiendo Barreras: Latino Students and the Challenges of Persisting in College.” Her second manuscript (sole author) *The Brown Paradox: Latinos and Educational Policy in the United States* is currently under contract with Teachers College Press.

She is presently the Principal Investigator of Proyecto Acceso, where she has led a statewide examination of the opportunities to learn for Latinos in Washington State for the Commission on Hispanic Affairs and the state legislature.

In addition to her research and teaching, Dr. Contreras serves on the Board of the Harvard Journal of Hispanic Policy, the Journal of Advanced Academics, and has been appointed by Mayor Nickels as a member of the Families and Education Levy Oversight Committee for the City of Seattle.

Dr. Contreras received her Ph.D. from Stanford University in Educational Administration & Policy Analysis, Master of Education from Harvard University, and B.A. from University of California, Berkeley.



Limited Health Care Access and Coverage for Washington's Hispanics

Limited access to health insurance and primary health care continues to affect the well-being of Washington's Hispanic community. Hispanics lack health insurance more than any other ethnic group in the state. This and other issues discussed below negatively influence the primary health care of Hispanics in the state.

Washington's Hispanic residents are disproportionately uninsured compared to the rest of the state's population. As of 2009, 27.8 percent of Hispanics in Washington are uninsured. Only 11.1 percent of white Washingtonians lack coverage (see Exhibit 1) ³. According to the Office of Financial Management (OFM), Hispanics in the state are also less likely than their white counterparts to be insured

through the military or an employer or union health plan ⁴. Conversely, Hispanics and African-Americans receive Medicaid at higher rates than the overall state population. As of 2009, 26.4 percent of Hispanics are publicly insured, in contrast to 13.5 percent of all Washington residents (see Exhibit 2). Here, it is important to mention that most Hispanic farm workers do not qualify to receive many health programs like Medicaid due to migratory living conditions.

Even though Washington State is a national leader in the provision of health care to its residents, access to health care continues to be a major problem for the state's Hispanics. While health care is a basic need, for many of the state's Hispanics, it is an unaffordable luxury. Experts have found that Hispanics tend to seek health care in emergency situations rather than having a routine preventative health as recommended by professionals. Emergency room health care increases medical expenses for Hispanics. According to Carolina Lucero from the SeaMar Community Health Center, Hispanics constantly visit SeaMar with advanced illnesses that require immediate treatment. This makes it extremely difficult for health care providers to detect and address medical problems at early stages and limits the possibility of low cost treatment for patients.

Bicultural-bilingual obstacles such as the lack of health care providers with bilingual services, limited public transportation in rural areas, and immigrant status are additional barriers keeping Hispanics from receiving primary health care according to Carlos Olivares, Director of the Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic (YVFWC). Due to these obstacles, the likelihood that Hispanic children will have an identified special health care need is much less than it is for other children ⁵. This is closely associated with language and the difficulties parents experience reporting their children's conditions accurately when English-speaking skills are limited ⁶. Not only do Hispanics in the state lack basic health care, they also suffer from serious illnesses such as diabetes, obesity, heart disease, HIV/AIDS and asthma ⁷. Recently, health care providers like SeaMar have witnessed a rise in the number of diabetes and child obesity cases in Hispanics.

According to both SeaMar and YVFWC, Hispanic "latch-key" children are more at risk of becoming obese than children who are supervised regularly by an adult. This is supported by data from the U.S. Department of Human and Health Services which states that Hispanics have a higher propensity to obesity than non-Hispanic Caucasians. There is an

expressed concern to specifically address child obesity and diabetes within Washington's Hispanic community.

To address such issues, health care providers in Washington have increased preventive care and education targeting Hispanics in their language of preference. In efforts to control child obesity, health care providers have partnered with statewide agencies like the WIC (Women, Infants, Children) Program to implement healthier nutritional diets. For diabetes preventive care, Kennewick General Hospital is offering Spanish Diabetes Education classes for patients with Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes. This is the area's only Spanish diabetes class. There are other health awareness programs throughout the state to educate, diagnose, and provide Hispanics with the tools to access health care and combat these illnesses.



In order to build a stronger and healthier state of Washington it is imperative to increase the number of health service providers with bilingual capabilities, as well as, address the reduction of the Basic Health Plan. Many Hispanics rely on the Basic Health Plan to receive essential medical care, mental health care and Substance Abuse services. With the reduction of the plan's services, many Hispanics will lose the ability to receive these services. Accessibility to health insurance and health care for Washington's Hispanic communities remains a critical concern for the improvement of the well-being and standard of living for Hispanics in the state.

³ The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. "State Health Facts: 2008". www.statehealthfacts.org

⁴ "2008 Washington State Population Survey: Health Insurance by Race/Ethnicity." Office of Financial Management Forecasting Division.

⁵ Washington State Department of Health, 2007.

⁶ "The Health of Washington State, 2007: Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs". Washington State Department of Health.

⁷ The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. "State Health Facts: 2008". www.statehealthfacts.org.

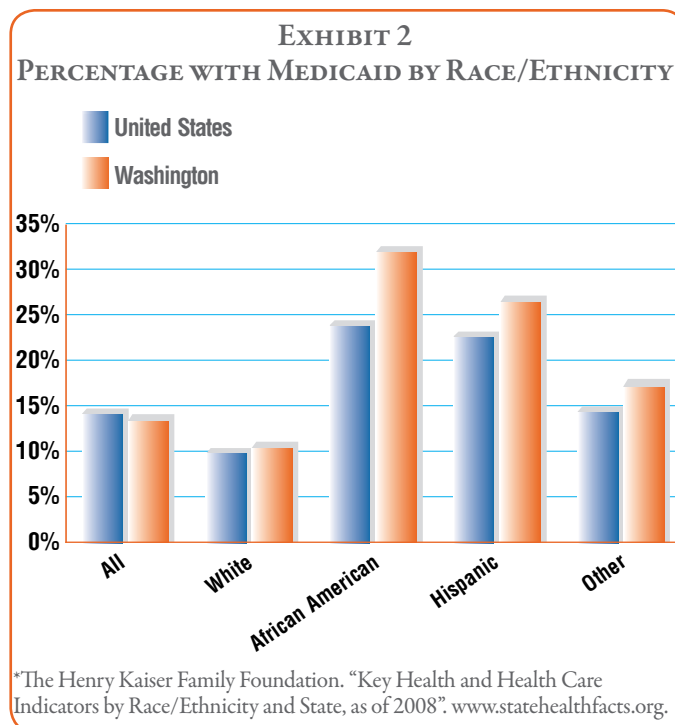
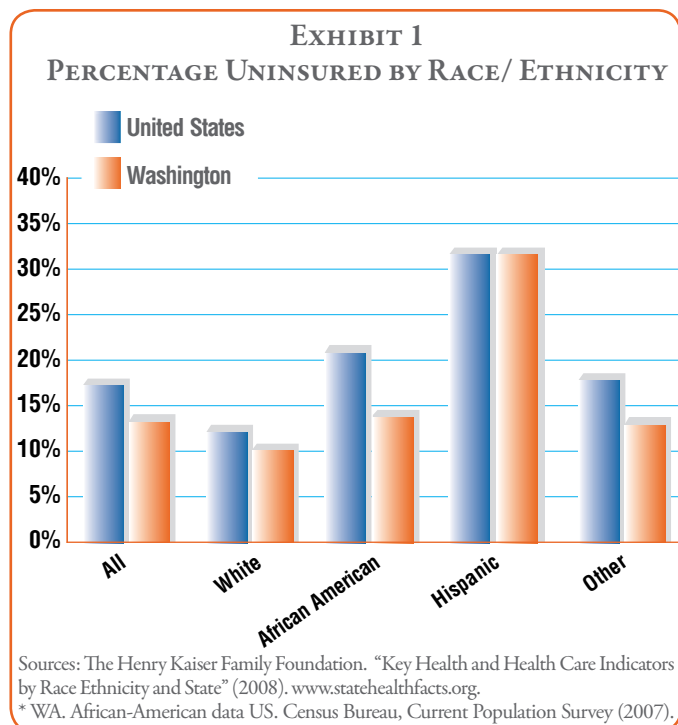


EXHIBIT 3
WASHINGTON STATE FATALITIES BY INDUSTRY, 2008

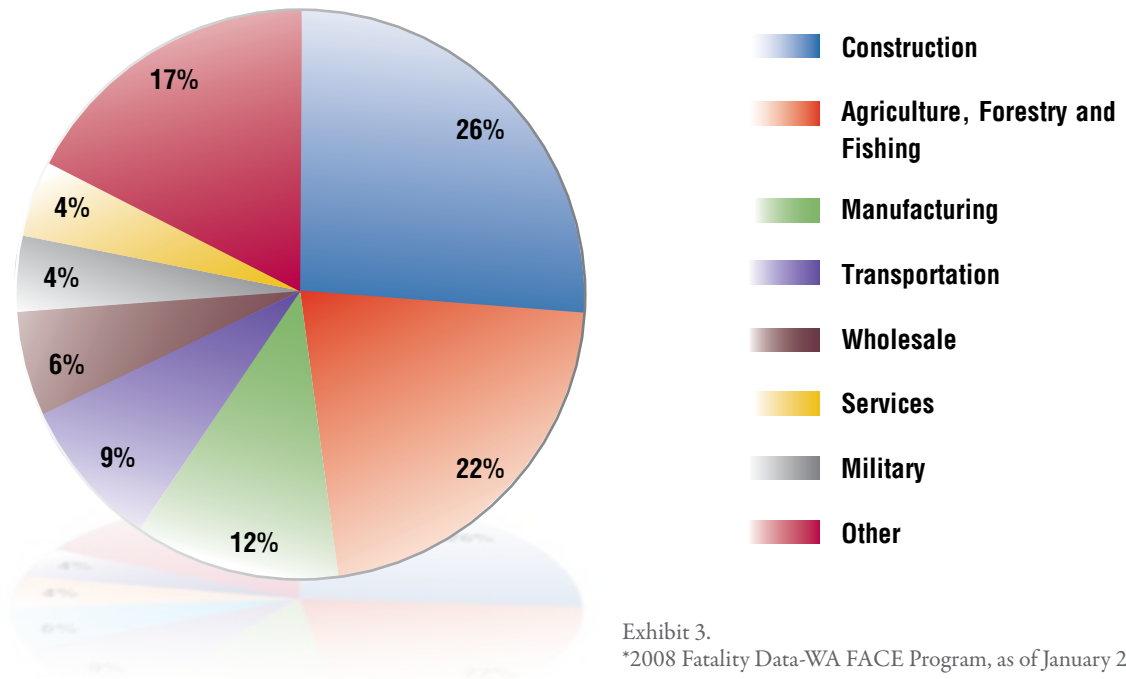


Exhibit 3.
*2008 Fatality Data-WA FACE Program, as of January 20, 2009

Policy Recommendations:

- Increase partnerships between State agencies, health care providers and organizations focused on developing bilingual preventive health care programs.
- Develop after school programs for students to attend in efforts to decrease child obesity.
- Increase community outreach to migrant rural communities.
- Support policies for a revision of the Basic Health Plan.
- Promote, encourage, and allocate funds for Hispanic students to pursue medical careers.

About the Author



Monica Maria Becerril is currently finishing her MBA at Willamette University with concentrations in Marketing and Sustainability Management. Monica is a graduate of Willamette University with a BA in International Studies and Spanish. She has served as a tutor and mentor at Willamette Academy for students from the Salem-Keizer school district for the past three years and is now a Marketing Intern.

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- We work with state agencies to develop processes that encourage the use of certified firms in public contracting and procurement.

- The inclusion of all firms in state contracting and procurement encourages competition and efficiency, fuels innovation, and creates jobs.

- We are the State's central resource for certification of eligible small businesses for the Washington State Minority & Women's Business Enterprise program (MWBE); US Department of Transportation Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program (DBE), Federal Aviation Administration Airport Concessionaire Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (ACDBE).



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Exposure to agricultural pesticides is a significant environmental health issue for farm workers, their families and others in agricultural areas. The overwhelming majority of farm workers are Latinos/Hispanics, and often these workers and their families live near orchards and fields.

A pesticide drift monitoring program was administered in 2007 and 2008 by the state Department of Health (DOH). The 2007 monitoring for "MITC" documented nearly constant air contamination, including exceedances of "levels of concern" ⁸. Other results will be posted soon.

Making exposures to pesticides visible is a key step in the struggle for environmental justice. But visibility suffered a major set-back during the 2009 legislative session when about half of the budget and staff for DOH's Pesticide Program was eliminated. The drift monitoring program was not renewed, and the agency's ability to investigate, track and analyze poisoning incidents has been greatly reduced.

Ongoing pesticide registration decisions greatly affect Latinos/Hispanics and others in Washington State. For example, in 2008, the EPA issued an MITC re-registration decision requiring mitigation measures like no spray zones around schools and other structures. Even with mitigation measures, workers and neighbors face risks of illness higher than the EPA's goals. Nonetheless in May of 2009, the EPA reduced buffer zone distances, and agency staff

may soon make additional adjustments in response to communications from pesticide manufacturers. The Washington State Department of Agriculture also told the EPA in a letter that it might not be able to enforce the MITC registration requirements.

As another example, the EPA has begun to review the registration for "chlorpyrifos", the key ingredient in products like Lorsban. Chlorpyrifos has been banned in residential products for a decade due to risks to children. But it is sprayed on orchards in close proximity to homes and daycare centers. House dust, urine and air sampling all document that this pesticide contaminates the children of farm workers as well as the workers' themselves.

Many state orchards and farms grow crops without chlorpyrifos, metam sodium and other pesticides that create significant health risks. Policies that help more growers transition to alternatives will reduce those risks. Lack of steady markets for alternatively grown foods is often cited as a key barrier to transitions. Policies that expand markets for those foods are one tool to facilitate transitions and protect health.

Information is not readily available on pesticides in groundwater, but a series of articles in the Yakima Herald Republic in 2008 reported on nitrate contamination in the Yakima Valley, including at levels above drinking water standards. Manure from Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) and commercial fertilizers are implicated. A task force is discussing the issue.

⁸A gas called methyl isothiocyanate (or MITC) is formed in the soil when soil is treated with the pesticides metam sodium or metam potassium. The gas flows through the soil killing weeds, bugs, and plant disease. MITC gas can escape from the soil and enter the air. MITC is a strong irritant and is toxic if inhaled.

Recommendations:

- The Governor, state agencies, and EPA must value and protect health as pesticide registration decisions are made and implemented. Phase-out timelines should be set for the most dangerous pesticides. This is especially true where a double standard protects urban children from a pesticide while agricultural area children continue to be exposed. Both the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) and the EPA should strengthen rather than weaken measures to protect health during periods preceding phase-out deadlines. WSDA must fully enforce registration requirements for MITC and all pesticides.
- President Obama and Governor Gregoire must provide leadership for comprehensive policies enabling growers to transition to the safest ways of growing food. Farm worker community members must have a seat at the table as these are discussed. Policies should include measures to procure safely and sustainably grown foods for farm workers and their children both to create markets and to give these individuals access to pesticide-free foods.
- The Governor and legislatures should restore funding and staffing to the Department of Health Pesticide Program and renew and expand the state drift monitoring program ⁹.
- State and federal agencies should engage in widespread ongoing testing of groundwater and wells in agricultural areas and areas near CAFOs, for nitrates, pesticides, phosphates and other contaminants. They should ensure access to safe drinking water for all. In addition, they should identify the point source of pollution and take swift, appropriate enforcement action against polluters to clean up the groundwater and to prevent further contamination. Agriculture must not be exempt from pollution laws. Factory farms need to be held to the same standards as other industrial practices.

⁹ For more information on the state drift monitoring program see the Washington State Department of Health document PUB 334-191 available online at: www.doh.wa.gov/chp/pest/mitc1-fs.pdf

About the Author

Carol Dansereau received her law degree from the University of Michigan in 1984 and has worked on environmental health issues for non-profit organizations since that time. Prior to becoming a staff person at the Farm Worker Pesticide Project, Carol worked with Environmental Action in Washington, D.C., the Michigan Environmental Council, and the Washington Toxics Coalition. At FWPP she works with community members concerned about ending exposures to agricultural pesticides and promoting safe and sustainable farming methods that don't endanger workers and their families.



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- **Leadership Development and Civic Engagement Academy** (Engage parents in improving the education of their children);
- **Para los Niños** (Increase the academic success of pre-school children);
- **Children of the Valley After School Program** (Improve the academic skills of high school students and help them graduate);
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Criminal Justice Concerns

Two subsets of the Latino population currently in crisis within the criminal justice system in Washington State are juveniles and immigrants. While the number of Latinos incarcerated in Washington seems to be decreasing in proportion to Latinos' share of the overall state population, Latino youth are disproportionately represented in juvenile facilities. Furthermore, while studies continue to dispel the myth that immigrants are more likely to commit crimes, immigrants who do come into contact with the criminal justice system are not getting their day in court.

Statistically, the rate of Latinos currently incarcerated in Washington State (9.2% ¹⁰), corresponds to the percentage

of Latinos in Washington (9.3% ¹¹.) and is down from one year ago. The current percentage of Hispanics in prison is down from 10.6% in 2008 ¹².

While the overall number of Latinos incarcerated in Washington State signals a positive trend, statistics on incarcerated Latino youth are more troubling. Incarcerated Latino youth are disproportionately represented in counties with higher than average Latino populations. The juvenile incarceration rate for Hispanics in Washington is 14.6%, while 2006 estimates show that approximately 15% of Washington's youth are of Hispanic origin ¹³. However, the numbers of Latino juveniles incarcerated in counties where Latinos make up over 25% of the population far exceed the Latino population share in those counties: Franklin (62.2% to 59.3%); Adams (66.4% to 54.1%); Yakima (55.3% to 42.5%); Grant (47.1% to 36.6%); and Chelan (36.6% to 25.1%) ¹⁴. Moreover, over-representation in juvenile sentencing for Latinos has increased ¹⁵.

Recent evidence also shows that state efforts to rehabilitate Latino youth is unsuccessful. Over 50% of Latino juvenile offenders commit another crime, above the state average, with the recidivism rates for both Latino juvenile males and females above state average as well ¹⁶.

Gang violence continues to be a problem in Washington State, particularly among Latino youth ¹⁷. The most recent law enforcement figures nationwide indicate Latinos make up almost half of all gang members ¹⁸. Studies show that certain social conditions, such as poverty, lack of school support, exposure to violence, and lower income, predispose gang involvement and contribute to Hispanic/Latino gang participation. The high school drop-out rate for Latinos in Washington almost doubles the rate for whites ¹⁹. Anti-gang laws, which can facilitate increased racial profiling, have disproportionately targeted Latino youth, simply because of where they live, whom they associate with, or how they look.

While the Washington State Legislative Work Group on Gang-Related Crime has recommended intervention and prevention programs to deter youth gang membership, culturally and linguistically sensitive community-based treatment programs have proven to be especially effective in reducing recidivism rates. However, there has not been much money or focus allocated to such programs.

The other major sub-set of Latinos affected by the criminal justice system in Washington State is immigrants. Recent studies show the incarceration rate of native-born males is four times higher than the rate of foreign born Hispanic males ²⁰, dispelling the myth that immigrants, particularly Latinos, are more likely to commit crimes than others. Unfortunately, Latino immigrants are still receiving less than equitable treatment in the criminal justice system.

Zealous efforts by some local law enforcement agencies in Washington have resulted in many undocumented immigrants, the majority Latinos, being turned over to immigration authorities before their criminal case is completed. As immigration practitioners attest, immigrants are often "persuaded" by immigration agents to sign their voluntary removal from the

country and waive their right to a hearing on their immigration charges, usually misleading immigrants about their rights or being released on bond. Consequently, their criminal cases are never disposed of, leaving a huge void in the criminal justice system. This is of particular concern because some cases may involve allegations of racial profiling by the police, which are never pursued in court because the immigrant defendant has been deported.

Also troubling are cases where undocumented immigrants come into contact with the criminal justice system but are non-detained. Local reports of immigration agents combing the court houses for alleged immigration violators lead immigrants to avoid their hearing in fear of being apprehended and deported. As a result, they are prevented from defending themselves in court or complying with their sentences, often resulting in arrest warrants. Those who do attend their hearing risk being arrested by immigration authorities and coerced into signing their voluntary removal as described above. Either way, Latinos are literally not getting their day in court.

There are no current studies available on the number of Latino immigrants being denied justice because potential subjects are either deported or go underground. However, this continues to be a serious problem in the State of Washington and it remains a priority for the Commission on Hispanic Affairs.

Recommendations:

- Increase funding for youth gang intervention and prevention programs, in and out of school.
- Improve school outreach to parents to work together in keeping Latino youth in school.
- Prohibit local authorities from voluntarily reporting suspected immigration violators to ICE until criminal cases are completed.
- Provide services to alert immigrants in state or local custody to their rights in immigration proceedings before being taken into ICE custody and agreeing to deportation without ever seeing an immigration attorney.

¹⁰ Population Summaries – Confinement Statistics, State of Washington, Dept. of Corrections (June 30, 2009) (<http://www.doc.wa.gov/aboutdoc/docs/FY09Q4-FactCard.pdf>).

¹¹ Hispanic/Latino - Population Estimate by Race, State of Washington, Office of Financial Management, Forecasting Division (April 1, 2008) (<http://www.ofm.wa.gov/pop/race/minoritygraphs/hispanic08.pdf>).

¹² The Statistical Brochure – Fiscal Year 2008, State of Washington, Dept. of Corrections (July 31, 2008) (<http://www.doc.wa.gov/aboutdoc/budget/docs/statistics/DOCStatisticalBrochure-Jul08.pdf>).

¹³ State of WA, DSHS, Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration (4/30/07) (<http://www.dshs.wa.gov/jra/facts/demographics.shtml>); Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee 2007 Annual Juvenile Justice Report.

¹⁴ "Easy Access to Juvenile Populations," Puzanchera, C., Finnegan, T., and Kang, W. (2007) (<http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/ojstatbb/ezapop>).

¹⁵ "Disproportionality and Disparity in Juvenile Sentencing – Fiscal Year 2007," State of Washington Sentencing Guidelines Commission (May 2008).

¹⁶ "Recidivism and Juvenile Offenders – Fiscal Year 2007," State of Washington Sentencing Guidelines Commission (May 2008).

¹⁷ SB 5987 Legislative Work Group on Gang-Related Crime – Final Report (Dec. 11, 2007); Northwest Leadership Foundation, Youth and Gang Violence Focus Group.

¹⁸ National Youth Gang Center, National Youth Gang Survey Analysis, <http://www.iir.com/nygc/nygsa/demographics.htm#anchorregmat> (last visited 8/18/09).

¹⁹ "2005-06 Graduation Rates, Grade 9-12," OSPI.

²⁰ The Myth of Immigrant Criminality and the Paradox of Assimilation: Incarceration Rates among Native and Foreign-Born Men, Rubén J. Rumbaut, Ph.D., and Walter A. Ewing, Ph.D., Immigration Policy Center, (Spring 2007) (<http://cha.wa.gov/documents/MythofImmigrantCriminality.pdf>).

About the Author



Henry Cruz is a partner at Rios Cantor, P.S., in Seattle, WA practicing immigration law. Prior to that he was the Project Coordinator at Volunteer Advocates for Immigrant Justice in Seattle, WA and the Coordinating Attorney at the Political Asylum Project of Austin in Texas. He is currently on the Pro Bono Committee of the Washington Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (WA AILA), and was awarded WA AILA's 2009 Pro Bono Award for Most Significant Pro Bono Work Having the Greatest Impact. He previously served as a commissioner on the WA State Commission on Hispanic Affairs and was the Chair of its Justice and Equity Committee from 2007-2009. He also served on the Board of the Latina/o Bar Association of Washington (LBAW) as Co-VP of Membership and Services and Co-Chair of its Immigration Committee. He was awarded LBAW's Miembro Excepcional award for 2007 and named the 2008 Latino Hero of Washington by Regence Blue Shield. He is a graduate of the University of Texas School of Law. He proudly volunteers as a big brother and serves on the Latino Mentoring Advisory Council with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Puget Sound.



Community Help Needed to Fight Scams Targeting Latinos

Statistics show that Hispanic consumers, compared to the general public, are more likely to become fraud victims. The Washington Attorney General's office has determined that cultural and language barriers can put Latino residents at a higher risk for some types of scams. You can help us change that trend.

The Attorney General's Office has an important role in protecting our state's consumers from fraud and ensuring a fair, competitive marketplace for businesses. This is accomplished through educating and enforcing state and federal laws. The office also provides informal mediation between businesses and their customers and works to resolve complaints so that both sides feel they are treated fairly.

Our Consumer Protection Division upholds the state's Consumer Protection Act, which declares that unfair and deceptive practices in trade or commerce that harm the public interest are illegal. The law gives the Attorney General's Office the authority to bring civil lawsuits against businesses or individuals who violate the Consumer Protection Act – whether they intended to deceive or not.

A Vulnerable Consumers Protection Team was created to bring cases against individuals and businesses that attempt to deceive consumers based on their age, cognitive limitations or economic, linguistic and cultural barriers. We can ask the court to impose penalties, injunctions that require the business to change its practices and restitution for consumers. If a case looks like it would be better suited for criminal authorities, we inform local law enforcement and county prosecutors.

Complaints from consumers are important because they help us identify businesses and individuals that aren't complying with the law. Unfortunately, we believe many scams that affect the Latino community go unreported because these consumers do not know where to go for help.

Our office coordinated two statewide education summits in fall 2006 to identify the biggest problems Latino consumers face and the most effective ways to reach them. We brought together a diverse group of consumer advocates, community leaders and representatives from local, state and federal government agencies who share our concerns.

Recognizing radio as a popular medium among Latinos, our office has participated in call-in radio programs and produced Spanish-language public service announcements to help warn the community of common and emerging scams.

We also participated in nationwide media "surfs" with the Federal Trade Commission and other organizations to collect data on the prevalence of deceptive marketing targeted at Hispanics.

Specific concerns in our state include:

IMMIGRATION ASSISTANCE FRAUD – Using nothing more than a Notary stamp or a sham legal degree, con artists are charging unsuspecting Latino clients extortionate fees for immigration services they are not qualified to provide.

Many victims report waiting months, or even years, for clearance from immigration officials regarding paperwork that was filed incorrectly, if at all. These nefarious acts not only affect the livelihood of immigration fraud victims, but may jeopardize their ability to remain in the country.

AUTO SALES – Latino consumers may also fall victim to a type of car sales scam known as “bushing.” A dealer gets the consumer into a new car, takes the money and the trade-in, sends the client home – then calls the consumer back a few days later saying there is a problem with financing and a new contract must be signed. The salesperson requests a larger down payment, higher interest rate or higher monthly payments. These terms don’t have to be accepted. State law gives dealers four working days (excluding weekends and holidays) to find financing and finalize the sale. If a dealer contacts you within four working days and calls the deal off, your options are to accept a new offer, if available, or walk away. If the dealer can’t find financing that meets your needs, you must return the new car. If more than four working days have passed before the dealer calls you about renegotiating financing, then the original deal stands.

COLLECTION AGENCIES – Spanish speaking consumers have filed complaints claiming that a “collection agency” has contacted them concerning an outstanding debt. When the consumer questions or attempts to verify whether the debt is valid, he or she is threatened with deportation, legal action or even physical harm. Threats and harassment must be reported to local law enforcement and the Attorney General’s Office. There are specific rules that determine what a collection agency can and cannot do when attempting to collect a debt.

IDENTITY THEFT – Most identity thieves get information by stealing a purse or wallet or by stealing checks or credit card information out of the mail. They use this information to obtain credit, employment or even commit a crime. Members of the Latino community may fall victim to these thieves due to various factors, one being the commonality of Spanish surnames. Since many first and last names are common, it can be easy to steal another person’s identity or even associate debt or crime to someone else with the same or similar name. Although the AG’s Office does not mediate ID Theft complaints; the victim should contact local law enforcement; the office does provide mediation if the victim has provided the required paperwork to collection agencies and if the agency then still refuses to work with the victim.

MANUFACTURED HOUSING LANDLORD/TENANT DISPUTES – Latino owners of manufactured/mobile homes who rent the lots in a community may be unaware that there is a specific law that identifies their rights and responsibilities. Latino homeowners who may be victims of unfair rent raises and fees might fear retaliation from their landlord if they make a formal complaint. But retaliation against a tenant is also illegal and the Manufactured Housing Unit in the Attorney General’s has Spanish-speaking staff available to help.

You can help us reduce fraud in Washington by warning others about these scams and encouraging them to contact us when they need help. Resources are available in Spanish on our Web site at atg.wa.gov, as well as by calling our Consumer Resource Center at 1-800-551-4636 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. weekdays. Gracias.

About the Author



Elena Huizar Pérez recently joined the Attorney General’s Office as the Bilingual Outreach Specialist for the Consumer Protection Division in Kennewick. Her responsibilities take her all across the state in an effort to inform the Latino community of their rights as consumers as well as their rights and responsibilities as business owners in Washington. Prior to her appointment with the AGO, Elena served as the Bilingual Services and Outreach Coordinator for the Yakima Valley Libraries system specializing in coordination and implementation of bilingual and Spanish language programming for the entire family. She oversaw many library initiatives in the valley directed at the Latino community. Elena, the eldest daughter of migrant parents, grew up in Yakima County and strives to create an informed Latino community by advocating that services and information be readily available in Spanish.



Immigration and immigration policy issues continue to have a powerful impact on the Latino community in Washington State. While Latinos represent slightly over 9% of the State's population, according to the Census Bureau, they represent 30% of all foreign-born Washingtonians. Foreign-born Latinos in Washington include naturalized U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents (also known as "green card" holders), temporary visitors or residents, and undocumented individuals. As is true in other regions of the country, many Latino families in Washington are "mixed status" families, meaning that different members in the family will have different immigration statuses. As a result, immigration policies that impact one individual in a family (who might lack permanent immigration status), will also have a significant indirect impact on the individual's entire family.

The last two years have seen a continued increase in immigration enforcement activities in our state. This increase is the extension of a pattern that began in the early 2000s and has seen the number of deportation cases originating in our state increasing from 3,803 in 2003 to 10,513 in 2008. In addition, recent press reports indicate that the number of such cases in 2009 will continue to increase. Immigration enforcement is primarily carried out by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), an agency within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Other enforcement functions, particularly those related to border areas and ports of entry into the United States, are carried out by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), also within the jurisdiction of the DHS.

Members of the Latino community have expressed concerns about the impact that immigration enforcement is having on members of the community and particularly about some of the tactics that have been employed by ICE and CBP. During 2008, CBP began conducting inspections of passengers arriving on domestic ferry routes, particularly ferries from the San Juan Islands to the mainland. In practical terms, the inspections served only as an immigration enforcement tool. The same was true of checkpoints that were set up by CBP in the Olympic Peninsula. The majority of the individuals detained during these checkpoints and inspections were Latinos and many members of the community expressed concern about possible profiling of Latinos during these activities. Advocates and other members of the community have also expressed concern about collaborations—whether formal or informal—between local law enforcement officials and immigration agencies.

Individuals who are detained for immigration violations in our state are eventually transferred to the Northwest Detention Center (NWDC) in Tacoma, Washington. The capacity of this detention facility has been growing over the last few years on par with the growth of enforcement activities by federal agencies. The facility has capacity to hold up to 1,030 individuals at any one time. In 2008 over 10,000 individuals were processed through NWDC. The facility is scheduled to expand its capacity to 1,575 in 2009. The number of individuals being processed through the facility yearly is therefore expected to rise significantly.

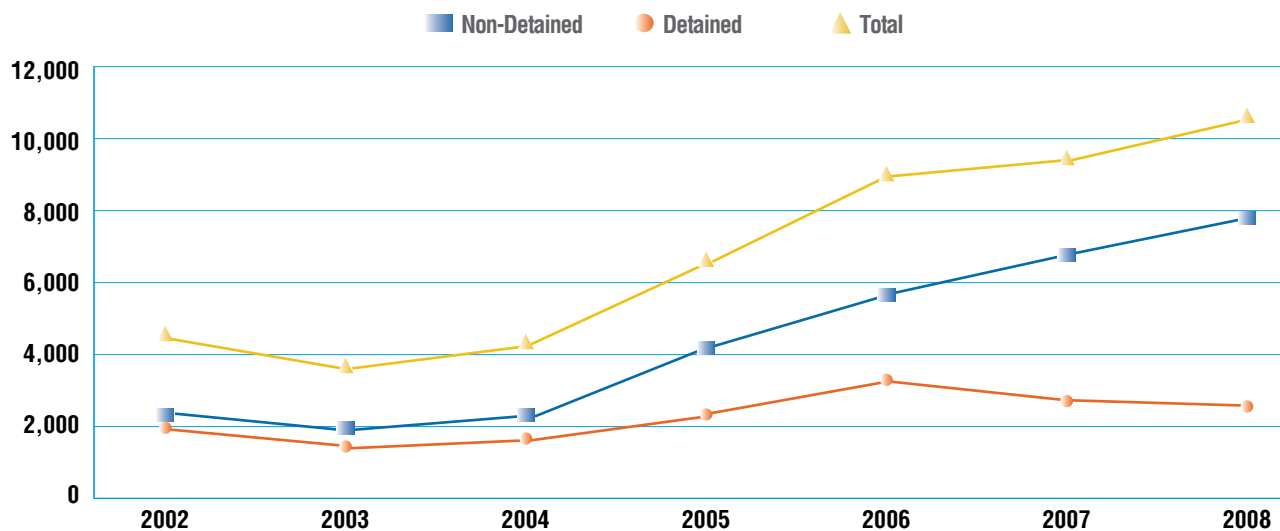
Most of the individuals who are detained at NWDC have the opportunity to appear before an immigration judge during removal (the new term for "deportation") proceedings. However, because immigration matters are considered civil rather than criminal, individuals facing deportation do not have the right to a government-appointed attorney in removal proceedings. In 2008, approximately 90% of individuals who went through the deportation process while detained at NWDC did not have an attorney representing them in their case. This situation concerns advocates because of the complexities of immigration law and the possibility that individuals with valid claims to remain in the United States will not be able to vindicate those claims because of the lack of legal assistance.

In the absence of comprehensive immigration reform, there are a number of initiatives within the state aimed at assisting individuals who qualify for legal immigration status within the current framework. In particular, the federal government recently began to fully implement the "U" visa program, which provides protections to certain victims of crime when they have cooperated

with law enforcement officials. The rationale behind the program is to ensure that immigrant victims of crime who come forward and report criminal activity should be provided humanitarian protection from deportation. Nonetheless, the process for qualifying for the program is a difficult one and calls for specialized advocacy. The State of Washington has been supporting some of these advocacy efforts through a number of programs addressing the needs of victims of domestic violence and other crimes.

Looking forward into 2010, immigration policy will continue to play a crucial role in Latino communities throughout the state. The Obama administration has signaled a commitment to pursue comprehensive immigration reform during that year, but has also indicated that immigration enforcement efforts will continue in the meantime. Advocates have expressed concern about the impact that the current policies will have on the 2010 census and particularly about the potential for a significant undercount of the Latino community throughout the country.

REMOVAL (DEPORTATION) CASES IN SEATTLE / TACOMA IMMIGRATION COURT 2002-2008



Recommendations:

Members of the Latino community have continued to voice strong support for a comprehensive reform of our immigration system, which should ensure the following:

- Provide a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants already in our country.
- Eliminate visa backlogs and ensure enough visas are available for future workers and immigrants.
- Protect all workers through robust enforcement of labor protections.
- Restore and enhance due process protections in the immigration system.
- Comprehensive immigration reform should also include legislation such as the DREAM Act (Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act), which would provide a path to citizenship for individuals who came to the United States at a young age and who meet certain educational or community service requirements.

About the Author



Jorge Barón became the Executive Director of the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project (NWIRP) in April 2008, after serving as a staff attorney with the organization since 2006. Jorge is originally from Bogotá, Colombia, and immigrated to the United States in 1986. He graduated from Duke University in 1995, and spent five years working in the film and television industry in Los Angeles, California, before pursuing a legal career. Jorge received his law degree from Yale Law School in 2003. After graduation, he served as a law clerk for Judge Betty B. Fletcher of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in Seattle. Jorge then served as an Arthur Liman Public Interest Fellow at New Haven Legal Assistance Association in New Haven, Connecticut, before moving back to the Pacific Northwest and starting his position at NWIRP. Jorge lives in Seattle with his wife Tyler and their two children Isabella and Joaquín.

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Economic Indicators

- Hispanic Economic Status
- Hispanic Home Ownership
- Hispanic Owned Businesses
- Economic Outlook

William D. Bradford, PhD

The entries in this section written by Dr. William D. Bradford at the University of Washington's Foster School of Business examine the economic conditions affecting the state's Hispanic residents. The severe economic downturn over the last year has been particularly difficult for the state's Hispanics. Bradford's assessment notes that the Hispanic unemployment rate is likely to be above the state average. Home ownership has also been affected. Already lagging non-Hispanic Whites and African Americans in home ownership, Hispanic home ownership is likely to decrease in the near future. The recent economic downturn has also had negative effects on Hispanic small business owners. A survey conducted by UW's Foster School of Business found that the Recent Performance Index declined to its lowest level since the survey was launched in March 2007. This was the case for Hispanic as well as White, Asian and Black owned firms. As these figures indicate, recent economic conditions have had a disproportionately negative impact on the state's Hispanics. Greater community outreach and continued support for Hispanic workers and business owners is necessary to ensure that subsequent economic improvement is equally experienced by all the state's residents.



Hispanic Economic Status



The statewide median income per capita for Hispanics ranks 19th nationally, while the rankings for Non-Hispanic Whites and Non-Hispanic Blacks are 15th and 12th, respectively.

Thus, both statewide and nationally, the income of Washington's Hispanic population is below those of other ethnic/racial groups. When the current recession started in December 2007, personal incomes had not recovered from the previous recession in 2001. In 2007, the typical household income in Washington remained \$3,296 lower than it had been in 1999-2000, before the recession of 2001 (inflation adjusted). The recovery from the 2001 recession followed by the recession beginning in late 2007 is the first economic recovery where incomes did not return to their pre-recession peak before another recession ²¹.

There are several reasons for the differences between Hispanics and other groups in income, including age, education and industry in which the person works. First, a typical relationship is that the higher the average age of the population, the higher the median income. The median age of Hispanics in Washington State is 24, much lower than those of Non-Hispanic Whites - 40 and Blacks - 30. We first discuss Hispanics at the lowest income level - those with income below poverty level. Adjusted for age group, the proportion of Hispanics in poverty exceeds the rate of Non-Hispanic Whites. The poverty rate for Hispanics 17 and younger is 31%, while the poverty rate for Hispanics 18 - 64 is 17%. [Exhibit 2]

Background

As this analysis was being written in August 2009, the U.S. and Washington State were in the throes of the worst recession since the Great Depression of the 1930s. The formal unemployment rate in Washington State, as reported by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, was 9.2%. Detailed statistics are not available on the statewide unemployment rate by ethnicity, but it is felt that the unemployment rate among Hispanics in Washington State was close to 15%. The 2009 unemployment rate in Washington State was a far cry from the 4.5% annual average unemployment rate in 2007, and the impact on the Hispanic population in the state has reflected this difference. Much of the data reported here ends before 2009, and thus is more favorable than the current economic status of the Hispanic population. But we will also discuss current trends since the latest figures were reported.

Hispanics in the Washington State Labor Force

In terms of income, while the population of the Hispanic persons in Washington State continues to climb, the annual earnings of the Hispanic population continues to lag the income of the Non-Hispanic Whites and Non-Hispanic Blacks in the State. The median per person income for Hispanics is \$20,238 in 2007 (the latest year available), which is 37% lower than the median \$32,482 for Non-Hispanic Whites and 20% below that of Non-Hispanic Blacks. [Exhibit 1]

EXHIBIT 1
2007 WASHINGTON STATE

Earnings: Persons 16 and older	Median U.S. Rank ²	
Annual Personal Earnings of Hispanics	\$20,238	19
Annual Personal Earnings of Non-Hispanic Whites	\$32,482	15
Annual Personal Earnings of Non-Hispanic Blacks	\$25,298	12

Source: Pew Hispanic Center

EXHIBIT 2
2007 WASHINGTON STATE

Poverty	Percent in Poverty ³
Hispanics 17 and Younger	31%
Non-Hispanic Whites 17 and Younger	10%
Non-Hispanic Blacks 17 and Younger	33%
Hispanics 18-64	18%
Non-Hispanic Whites 18-64	3%
Non-Hispanic Blacks 18-64	16%

Source: Pew Hispanic Center

These are much higher than the 10% and 3% poverty rates, respectively, for Non-Hispanic Whites. These poverty rate figures are the latest available and refer to 2007. It is likely that poverty proportions have increased since then.

Research concludes that the more education Hispanics have, the more likely they are to be in the labor force and of those in the labor force, Hispanics with higher levels of education are more likely to be working. The trends are similar for non-Hispanic whites, however, just over 41 percent of working age Hispanics have some post secondary education: 16 percent have a bachelor's degree or higher; 10 percent have an associate's degree or a vocational certificate; 15 percent have some college, but no degree; and 59 percent have a high school diploma or less. In comparison, non-Hispanic whites tend to have more education: 37 percent have a bachelor's degree or higher; 15 percent have an associate's degree or a vocational certificate; 19 percent have some college, but no degree; and 30 percent have a high school diploma or less²². Thus the lower distribution of education among Hispanics in Washington State also causes their lower average incomes.

In addition, a smaller percentage of Hispanics (77 percent) than non-Hispanic whites (81 percent) are in the labor force. Of those in the labor force, 87 percent of Hispanics and 94 percent of non-Hispanic whites are working.

The average overall earnings of Hispanics are reflected in their average hourly wage rate, which is lower than non-Hispanic whites. The median hourly wage for Hispanics in their primary job is \$14.66 versus \$19.23 for non-Hispanic whites. On an hourly basis, Hispanics earn about 76 percent of what non-Hispanic whites earn. The wage differences vary by industry or occupation. Hispanics, as well as non-Hispanic whites, with higher levels of education tend to have higher median hourly wages.

[Exhibit 3] [Exhibit 4]

EXHIBIT 3
HOURLY WAGES OF EMPLOYMENT
(median based on main job)

By Industry	HISPANICS	NON-HISPANICS WHITES	By Occupation	HISPANICS	NON-HISPANICS WHITES
Services	14.42	16.86	Business & Professional	21.37	24.00
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting.	8.50	15.38	Construction, Maintenance, Production, Transportation	15.00	18.85
			Sales & Admin Support	13.95	15.38
			Service	12.44	12.50

Source: Workforce Focus Hispanics 2005. Washington State Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board.

EXHIBIT 4
HOURLY WAGES BY LEVEL OF EDUCATION AND AGE GROUP
(median based on main job)

By Education Level	HISPANICS	NON-HISPANICS WHITES	By Age Group	HISPANICS	NON-HISPANICS WHITES
Bachelor Degree or Higher	21.37	24.04	50-64 Year or older	16.98	20.19
Some College/ No Degree	16.98	17.44	35-49 Year Olds	19.23	21.25
High School or Less	12.43	15.50	20-34 Year Olds	11.90	15.48

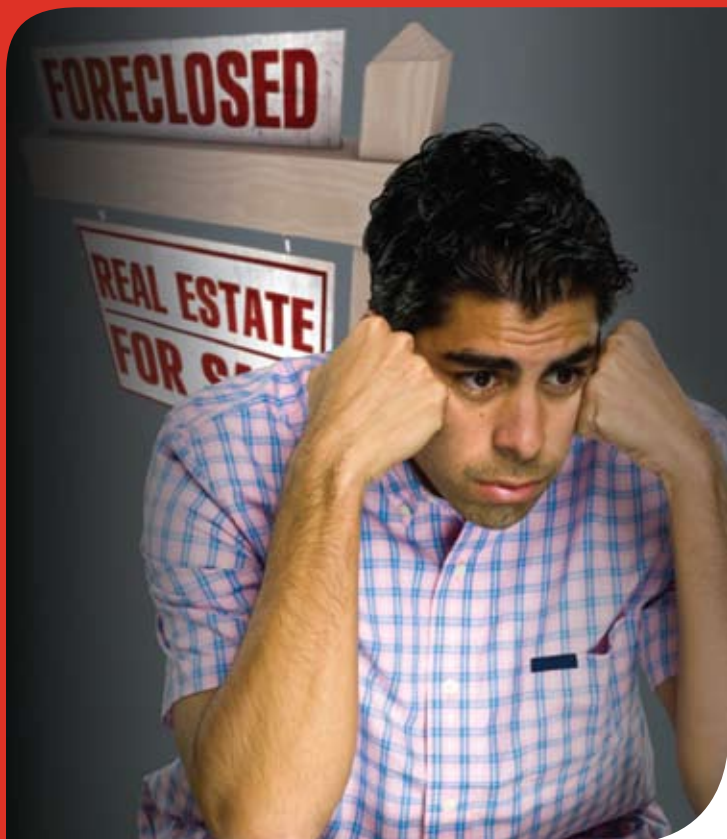
Source: Workforce Focus Hispanics 2005. Washington State Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board.

The majority of Hispanics work in the private sector: 68 percent work for a private company, 16 percent work in government, 8 percent are self-employed or work for the family business, and 7 percent work for a nonprofit organization. In comparison, fewer non-Hispanic whites work for a private company (59 percent), more work for government (21 percent) and more are self-employed or work for a family business (13 percent). The services industries are the largest employers of both non-Hispanic whites and Hispanics. Hispanics work mostly in construction, maintenance, production, and transportation occupations whereas the largest percentage of non-Hispanic whites is in business and professional fields.

Washington's labor force is changing, reflecting demographic shifts as well as changes in labor force participation. Forecasts show that the state workforce will become increasingly more diverse because of the growing numbers of African, Asian, and other non-white Americans entering the labor force, considerably higher than the number of whites. In particular, state forecasts indicate that between 2000 and 2020, the number of workers of Hispanic ethnicity will increase from 6.4 percent to 9.3 percent. By the year 2030, workers of Hispanic origin in the state are expected to more than double from 261,300 to 554,500, accounting for 13.2 percent of the Washington labor force. Thus it is important that Washington State continue to operate and expand efforts to train this important source of labor for Washington's businesses.

²¹ Joint Economic Committee, WASHINGTON ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT Senator Charles E. Schumer, Chairman Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney, Vice Chair November 21, 2008

²² Washington State Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board, Workforce Focus Hispanics 2005.



The boom and bust cycle in the U.S. housing market since the mid-1990s has generated greater gains and losses for minority groups than for non-Hispanic whites, according to a study by the Pew Research Center. The study analyzed housing, economic and demographic data from 1995 to current years. From 1995 to 2005, homeownership rate increased more rapidly among all minorities than among non-Hispanic whites. But since the start of the housing bust in 2005, homeownership rates have fallen more steeply for both blacks and Hispanics than for the rest of the population. Overall, the ups and downs in the housing market since 1995 have reduced the homeownership gap between whites and all racial and ethnic minority groups. However, a substantial gap persists. As of 2008, 74.9% of whites owned homes, compared with 59.1% of Asians, 48.9% of Hispanics and 47.5% of blacks.

Blacks and Hispanics remain far more likely than whites to borrow in the subprime market where loans are usually

higher priced. In 2007, 27.6% of home purchase loans to Hispanics and 33.5% to blacks were higher-priced loans, compared with just 10.5% of home purchase loans to whites that year. For black homeowners who had a higher-priced mortgage, the typical annual percentage rate (APR) was about 3 percentage points greater than the rate on a typical 30-year, fixed-rate conventional mortgage; for Hispanics who had a higher-priced mortgage, the typical rate was about 2.5 percentage points higher than that of the conventional mortgage. Moreover, in 2007, blacks and Hispanics borrowed higher amounts than did whites with similar incomes, exposing themselves to greater debt relative to their incomes. On both counts—the likelihood of higher-priced borrowing and higher debt relative to income—the gap between minorities and whites is greater among high-income households than among low-income households.

A total of 3,157,806 foreclosure filings were reported on 2,330,483 U.S. properties during 2008, an 81 percent increase in from 2007 and a 225 percent increase from 2006. A major proportion of these filings were foreclosures on homes with subprime mortgages. The subprime mortgage crisis has become a full-blown financial crisis. In 2002-2007, unregulated mortgage originators were given financial incentives to sell risky, unaffordable subprime mortgages to vulnerable borrowers. The current declining home prices mean many families owe more than their homes are currently worth. In Washington State, subprime mortgages in delinquency have increased from 11,800 in the second quarter of 2006 to 17,900 in the second quarter of 2008. According to a 2008 analysis published by the Joint Economic Committee (JEC), the number of subprime foreclosures in Washington will total 18,123 between the first quarter of 2008 and the end of 2009.

One measure of economic well-being is home ownership. In 2007 the Hispanic family rate of home ownership was 46%, lower than the 70% for Non-Hispanic White and higher than the 34% for Non-Hispanic Blacks in Washington State. [Exhibit 5] As we write this report in 2009, we anticipate that the Hispanic home ownership rate has declined from that rate, which was ranked 24th in the U.S. among states.

EXHIBIT 5
2007 HOME OWNERSHIP

Householders	Rate	U.S. Rank
Hispanics	46%	24
Non-Hispanic Whites	70%	42
Non-Hispanic Blacks	34%	31

Source: Pew Hispanic Center

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Hispanic/Latino Insight will give you a better understanding of the Latino consumer, the fastest growing population segment in the Northwest – their habits, lifestyles and preferences, level of acculturation¹ and more importantly, how best to reach them.

- Today, 1 in 7 U.S. citizens is Latino, in 2020 it will be 1 in 5 and by 2050, it will be 1 in 3.
- U.S. Latino/Hispanic buying power is about \$1 Trillion and in the Northwest \$13 Billion.
- Median age is 27-yrs., with a significant portion currently starting their own families.
- Northwest Latinos reflect contrasts by level of acculturation¹, education, income and country of origin.

⁽¹⁾ Acculturation: cultural modification of an individual or group of people adapting to or borrowing traits from another culture as a result of prolonged contact. Adaptation may include language, eating habits, household products usage, entertainment, media usage, etc.

Hispanic Owned Businesses



A review of the latest data available does not support the proposition that minority-owned businesses are prospering in the State of Washington ²³. The Survey of Businesses 2002, conducted by the U. S. Census reveals that a negative trend in the rate of growth and revenues generated by Hispanic-Owned Businesses occurred during the five-year period between 1997 and 2002. During this timeframe, Hispanic-Owned Businesses grew at the rate of only 3% compared to a 26% growth rate for Black-owned businesses, an 18% growth rate for Asian-owned businesses and a 22% growth rate for Native American-owned businesses. The rate of growth of new Hispanic-Owned Businesses during this period was well below Black, Asian and Native-American businesses. The Office of Minority and Women-Owned Enterprises had certified 2,184 or 1.2% of the 187,258 minority and women-owned businesses in the state of Washington in 2002 while expenditures for Washington State totaled \$1,942,677,505

and contracts awarded to minority and women-owned businesses totaled only \$62,706,039 or 3.2% of the total expenditures. HOB are significantly under performing in comparison to other minority and women-owned businesses in terms of growth rates and revenues generated. Minority and Women-owned businesses are being underutilized by the state agencies. A more balanced attempt in supporting business in Washington State is needed. An equal amount of effort and energy to supporting the small business sector and, HOB in particular, is needed to create strong local economies, especially in the rural communities.

We now discuss recent economic conditions based upon a representative survey of Hispanic owned businesses in Washington State. The University of Washington's Business and Economic Development Center (at the UW's Foster School of Business) conducts a semiannual survey of minority small businesses in Washington State. The purpose of the survey is to provide relevant, comprehensive, and timely data regarding minority-owned small businesses to private- and public-sector decision-makers; over time, communicate changes in the economic condition of minority-owned small businesses; and to identify areas of concern and opportunity for minority-owned small businesses

The April 2009 survey asked businesses about recent performance in terms of sales, profits and hiring, and BEDC generated the Recent Performance Index. [Exhibit 6] The Recent Performance Index declined to its lowest level since the survey was launched in March 2007 for each business group—Hispanic, Asian, Black and White firms. The current economic climate has severely challenged the minority business sector in Washington State. The survey

EXHIBIT 6
MINORITY SMALL BUSINESS SURVEY APRIL 2009
MINORITY SMALL BUSINESS
RECENT PERFORMANCE INDEX (MAX = 100.0)

	Asian/Pac. Is.	African Am.	Hispanic	All Min.	White	Overall Av.
Apr 2009	44.9	43.8	49.4	47.7	50.4	48.2
Nov 2008	55.6	50.6	54.3	53.5	55.6	54.2
Apr 2008	56.4	51.5	61.0	56.4	59.3	57.1

Source: Washington Minority Small Business Survey, UW BEDC, July 2009

also asked about the firms' expectations of the upcoming quarter and year's performance in terms of sales, profits and hiring, and BEDC developed a Business Confidence Index from the responses. [Exhibit 7] Hispanic business owners, consistent with the other business groups in the first quarter of 2009 were more pessimistic about their future growth prospects over the next quarter and year than they were a year earlier. But they were slightly more optimistic than they were at the end of 2008. This might indicate that the recessionary conditions among the small and minority businesses are at or close to the bottom.

A special aspect of the current recession is tight credit. It is felt that the tight bank credit conditions are a crucial part of the recession, and a loosening of bank credit is a major assistance in recovery from the current recession. The minority and small white businesses were asked whether their credit needs were being met. The proportion of Washington's Hispanic firms reporting unmet financing needs increased by 50% between November 2008 and April 2009 to 21%. [Exhibit 8] There were increases in unmet financing needs for each small business group. In addition, although the proportion of small businesses nationally with unmet needs increased (from 6% to 8%, based upon a national survey of small businesses in April 2009) the proportion of small businesses with unmet financing needs in Washington far exceeds the national average. These figures reflect the continuation of a tight market for small—particularly Hispanic and other minority businesses—to obtain financing to grow.

EXHIBIT 7
MINORITY SMALL BUSINESS SURVEY APRIL 2009
 MINORITY SMALL BUSINESS CONFIDENCE INDEX
 (MAX = 100.0)

	Asian/Pac. Is.	African Am.	Hispanic	All Min.	White	Overall Av.
Apr 2009	47.8	48.2	50.7	48.9	48.9	48.9
Nov 2008	47.4	47.3	51.8	48.9	45.6	48.0
Apr 2008	54.8	52.7	57.5	55.0	52.2	54.3
Nov 2007	59.3	57.6	60.0	58.9	57.7	58.7

Source: Washington Minority Small Business Survey, UW BEDC, July 2009

EXHIBIT 8
CREDIT NEEDS MET/UNMET

	Asian/Pac. Is.	African Am.	Hispanic	All Min.	White	Total	Overall Av.
April 2009							
Credit Needs Met	29%	12%	25%	22%	25%	23%	30%
Credit Needs Not Met	18%	30%	21%	23%	18%	22%	8%
No Desire to Borrow	53%	58%	54%	55%	57%	55%	62%
November 2008							
Credit Needs Met	32%	12%	35%	26%	26%	26%	31%
Credit Needs Not Met	16%	28%	14%	19%	16%	18%	6%
No Desire to Borrow	52%	60%	51%	55%	61%	56%	63%

Source: Washington Minority Small Business Survey, UW BEDC, July 2009

²³ Hector Franco, Luz Bazan Guitierrez and Nestor Hernandez "THE STATE OF HISPANIC-OWNED BUSINESSES IN THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN 2008".



Hispanic businesses will grow, the vast majority of Hispanic-owned businesses will find competition and the lack of capital a severely challenging period. Thus, given the economic climate in 2009, the short-to-intermediate term economic outcomes for Hispanics in the State of Washington State will be a challenge to improve to pre-recession conditions, and those conditions were not satisfactory then..

Recommendations:

- Increase collaboration and partnering among state agencies and community-based organizations in their outreach to Hispanic/Latino businesses.
- Support public efforts to understand the key economic issues of Hispanic/Latino businesses.
- Develop working groups with federal and local governments to provide potential Hispanic/Latino business owners with resources and information necessary to create successful businesses.
- Continue to support measures that will bring about wage equality for Hispanic/Latino workers.

About the Author



William D Bradford PhD Endowed Professor of Business and Economic Development, and Professor of Finance and Business Economics at the University of Washington's Foster School of Business since 1999. Dean of the UW Business School and holder of the Kirby Cramer Chair at the University of Washington, 1994 - 1999. He has also served as Faculty Director of the Business School's Business and Economic Development Center since 2005.

He received a B.A. in Economics from Howard University, an MBA in finance and a Ph.D. in Finance and Economics from Ohio State University. He served as Assistant and Associate Professor of Finance at the Graduate School of Business at Stanford University from 1972 – 80. From 1980 – 94, he was Professor of Finance at the University of Maryland at College Park, Chair of the Finance Department and then Associate Dean and Acting Dean at the Smith School of Business.

Professor Bradford serves on the Board of Directors of the Commerce Bank (Seattle), and was a member of the board of directors of the Russell Trust Company from 2000 to 2008. His areas of research include Entrepreneurship, Financial Issues of Small and Minority Businesses, and Family Economics. In addition, he has also taught at Ohio State, New York University, UCLA and Yale University. He has consulted with numerous firms and has had international lectureships in corporate finance and entrepreneurship in the UK, Indonesia, Egypt, the Ivory Coast, South Korea, Canada, China and South Africa. He has authored or co-authored three books and more than 50 articles on finance during his career. Professor Bradford's teaching areas are Entrepreneurial Finance, Venture Capital, Managerial Finance, and Management of Financial Institutions. His current activities also include lead researcher in the semi-annual Washington Minority Small Business Survey and as faculty director of the Minority Business Executive Program at the Foster School of Business.

Political Participation

- Latino Voter Registration and Turnout (*Matt A. Barreto, PhD*)
- Hispanic Elected Officials (*Xin Huang*)
- Latino Access to the Political Process (*Joaquin G. Avila, JD*)

There has not been an increase in Hispanic representatives at the local and state level proportional to the sharp rise in the state's Hispanic population. As the three entries in this section make clear, Latinos continue to be woefully underrepresented in the state's governing bodies. The increases that have occurred are concentrated at the local level; however, it is not certain that these recent increases will be sustained. This need not be the case. Professor Avila provides a number of policy recommendations to address the lack of Hispanic political representation. A state voting rights act, such as that recently implemented in California is a promising initiative with far reaching implications for Hispanic political representation. The commission encourages this proposal as an effective method of increasing political equality across the state.



Latino Voter Registration and Turnout



Washington Latinos is higher than in Oregon (43%) but well below that of California (63%) and the national average for Latinos (59%). Furthermore, in the 2008 election, voter turnout among registered was 61% for Latinos compared to 83% for non-Latinos in Washington.

Latino political engagement trails noticeably compared to states like California, however the states differ in important ways. First, the Latino population is much smaller in Washington (9% of total) than in California (37% of total). As a result, there are far fewer Latinos in elected office in Washington State, and far fewer Latino advocacy groups, both of which are crucial to Latino voter registration and empowerment.

Yet despite these statistics, trends could be improving for Latinos. Latino voter registration is increasing in Washington at a faster pace than non-Latinos with almost 40,000 new Latino voters registered from 2005 - 2008, an increase of 38% in just four years. In comparison, non-Latino registration increased by 28% during the same time period. And while there are relatively few Latino civic groups in Washington, those that exist have greatly increased their focus on voter registration drives since the 2004 election. With additional increases in citizenship and voter registration, Latinos are expected to rise from 3.9% to 5% of the state's registered voters by 2012.

Latino voter registration is distributed throughout both Eastern and Western Washington. A common misperception is that Latinos are primarily found east of the Cascade Mountains, however they are split almost equally between West and East. Among all Latino registered voters in the state, 27% are found in King County alone, and 49% can be found in the Puget Sound region (Snohomish, King, Pierce, and Thurston counties). However, as a percentage of all voters, Latinos are more concentrated in Eastern Washington. In Adams County 21% of all registered voters are Latino, 19% in Franklin and 17% in Yakima. Latino voter registration appears to be growing faster in Eastern Washington counties. Yakima witnessed a 63% increase in Latino registered voters since 2004 and Franklin a 55% increase, compared to 35% increase in King County.

In November 2008 a record number of Latinos (more than 86,000) cast ballots in Washington State in the presidential and gubernatorial election. While Latino voter registration has grown by 38% since the 2004 election, Latino registration and voting remains low in Washington. Currently, Latinos comprise 9.4% of the state population, but only 3.9% of those registered to vote. According to voter registration data from the Secretary of State there were 3,709,463 registered voters as of the November 2008 election, and 142,867 estimated Latino registered voters. Why is this number so low?

Despite an adult population of 404,000, Latino citizen adults number just 280,000, with only about half (51%) of those actually registered to vote. In contrast, 73% of all citizen adult non-Latinos in Washington State are registered to vote. According to the November 2008 Current Population Survey by the U.S. Census, the registration rate for

TABLE 1: LATINO VOTER REGISTRATION RATE – WASHINGTON STATE IN COMPARISON

Latino Population	Washington	Oregon	California	National
Adult Population	404,000	261,000	8,859,000	30,852,000
Citizen Adult	280,000	100,000	5,193,000	19,537,000
% Citizen	69%	38%	59%	63%
Registered	142,867	43,000	3,263,000	11,608,000
% Registered	51%	43%	63%	59%

TABLE 2: LATINO VOTER REGISTRATION GROWTH 2004 – 2008

	2004	2008	Growth	Grow Rate
Latino	103,624	142,867	39,243	38%
Non-Latino	2,781,619	3,506,596	784,977	28%

TABLE 3: 2008 LATINO VOTER REGISTRATION BY COUNTY AND GROWTH SINCE 2004

COUNTY	Latino	Non-Latino	Total	Pet. Latino	New Latino Reg since '04	Growth Rate
Adams	1,308	4,937	6,245	21%	246	23%
Asotin	116	12,165	12,281	1%	43	59%
Benton	4,548	83,498	88,046	5%	1,392	44%
Chelan	1,934	37,266	39,200	5%	782	68%
Clallam	694	45,628	46,322	1%	219	46%
Clark	5,328	213,879	219,207	2%	2,090	65%
Columbia	55	2,563	2,618	2%	18	49%
Cowlitz	967	55,898	56,865	2%	332	52%
Douglas	1,099	17,988	19,087	6%	439	67%
Ferry	46	4,257	4,303	1%	22	92%
Franklin	4,543	19,651	24,194	19%	1,604	55%
Garfield	9	1,567	1,576	1%	5	125%
Grant	3,257	30,106	33,363	10%	945	41%
Gray's	614	36,556	37,170	2%	236	62%
Island	999	47,418	48,417	2%	364	57%
Jefferson	257	22,078	22,335	1%	119	86%
King	32,791	1,100,037	1,132,828	3%	8,578	35%
Kitsap	4,005	142,546	146,551	3%	1,303	48%
Kittitas	409	20,468	20,877	2%	150	58%
Klickitat	280	12,124	12,404	2%	101	56%
Lewis	892	41,280	42,172	2%	441	98%
Lincoln	58	6,921	6,979	1%	16	38%
Mason	603	32,545	33,148	2%	222	58%
Okanogan	688	20,154	20,842	3%	192	39%
Pacific	178	13,035	13,213	1%	58	48%
Pend Oreille	106	7,729	7,835	1%	33	45%
Pierce	12,924	404,644	417,568	3%	3,948	44%
San Juan	159	11,545	11,704	1%	43	37%
Skagit	2,512	63,300	65,812	4%	743	42%
Skamania	106	6,581	6,687	2%	35	49%
Snohomish	10,164	368,362	378,526	3%	3,279	48%
Spokane	4,449	258,087	262,536	2%	1,303	41%
Stevens	269	26,897	27,166	1%	101	60%
Thurston	4,362	46,188	150,550	3%	1,530	54%
Wahkiakum	22	2,699	2,721	1%	6	38%
Walla Walla	1,984	29,573	31,557	6%	514	35%
Whatcom	2,804	113,554	116,358	2%	1,116	66%
Whitman	357	20,638	20,995	2%	178	99%
Yakima	16,780	82,230	99,010	17%	6,497	63%

About the Author



Matt A. Barreto is Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Washington, and Director of the Washington Institute for the Study of Ethnicity & Race (WISER).

His research focuses on Latino and immigrant political participation, especially patterns of voter turnout. Prof. Barreto teaches classes on Latino Politics, Voting and Elections, and American Government at the University of Washington.

His book, *Ethnic Cues: The Role of Shared Ethnicity in Latino Political Participation*, documents increases in Latino voting over the past decade.

Hispanic Elected Officials



half of elected Hispanic officials have been seated in school boards. There were six school board members in 2007. Since 2007, the jump in the number of council members is even more dramatic. There were only two Latino officials in this state two years ago, 13 in 2008 and 19 in 2009.

Municipal Administration

In addition, there has also been some progress in the area of municipal administration. There are currently six Hispanic mayors in Washington State, compared to only 2 in 2007.

State Level

In 2007, Washington Hispanics had one house representative and one senator. In 2009, there are two Hispanic State Representatives, Phyllis Gutierrez-Kenney and Jaime Herrera.

Phyllis Kenney serves as a representative for 46th district. Education enhancement is a priority of her politics. She passed various bills regarding funding in all levels of education facilities, rewarding outstanding students and simplifying executive process. She also advocated actions dealing with housing, employment and taxes.

FIGURE 1
DEMOGRAPHICS OF HISPANIC ELECTED OFFICIALS

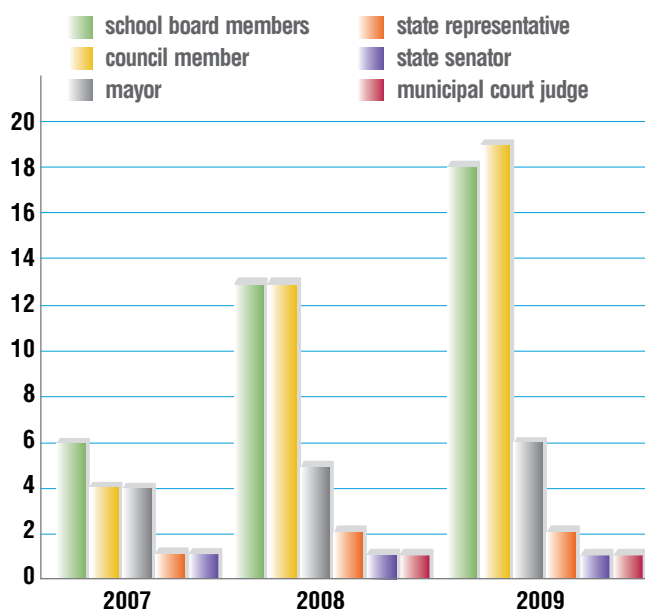


FIGURE 2
2009 ELECTED OFFICIALS

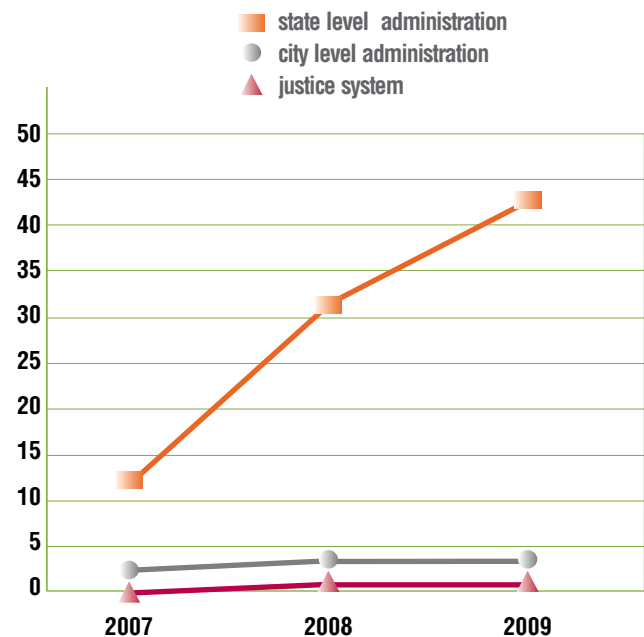


Jaime Herrera, represents Washington's 18th district. Her legislative emphasis is economy recovery and employment rates. She is already working hard to improve Washington's business environment and attract companies that will provide jobs and benefits for us. Representative Jaime Herrera is also working with a diverse group of people and organizations in the health-care industry to try and find an affordable way to ease the burden on employees and employers.

Margarita Prentice is the only Hispanic senator in Washington State. She is also concerned about the rising unemployment rate caused by the economic recession. In the Senate, Prentice was instrumental in passing legislation for increasing jobs in our community, assists small businesses, invests in worker training programs, and attracts new business and industry. Her policies are devoted to improve the quality of education and affordable medical care, especially for middle class and low income groups.

As shown in the graphs, the overall number of elected Hispanic officials has increased significantly. However, this increase has been concentrated at the municipal level. In the past three years, the number of Hispanic judges, house representatives and senators remains nearly constant. Hispanics make up 9.3 % of Washington State's population, yet only one in 50 senators and two out of 97 House representatives are of Hispanic origin. This is a troubling trend that should be corrected.

FIGURE 3
TREND OF CHANGE IN HISPANIC ELECTED OFFICIALS



Recommendations:

- Fund and make supporting policies for government/non-governmental organizations, focused on Hispanic research & involvement. e.g. CHA, Washington State Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Washington State Hispanic/Latino Legislative Organization.
- Political education: Mentor/educate Hispanic teenagers to join political parties and develop interest in political issues; provide opportunities and rewards for minority students to visit and volunteer in governmental organization/entities.

About the Author



Xin Huang is currently a senior at Pacific Lutheran University (PLU). He is majoring in Economics, minoring in Math and Political Science. He was born in Fuzhou, Fujian, China and went to Shanghai for his undergraduate studies at East China University of Political Science and Law (ECUPL). He transferred to PLU after his sophomore year.

Beyond his academic experience, he maintains an active extra-curricular life. He loves travelling and tennis. He visited Europe to study Italian economic history. He is also involved in choir and is a music scholarship recipient. His strong passion for promoting cultural communication, tolerance, and mutual growth is the motivation for his future career. Right now, he is finishing up his capstone on game theory, and planning to get into a graduate school for a joint doctorate degree in Law and Economics.

Latino Access to the Political Process



Latinos in the State of Washington are experiencing substantial population growth – yet this growth is not reflected in the governing bodies of the State's political institutions. Latinos are underrepresented at all levels of government -- local city councils, school boards, county councils, special districts, and the State Legislature, a paucity of representation not conducive to the creation of a socially cohesive society. Apart from this societal self-preservation interest, there is a question of fundamental fairness. Persons who provide societal benefits, such as paying taxes, should have an effective voice in formulating state and local policies involving a distribution and investment of these resources. In our republican form of state and local governments, access to the political process is the

means by which Latinos can secure a meaningful voice on governing boards. The primary mechanism for securing access to political governance is through the electoral process.

An electoral process should be competently administered in order to facilitate voter participation²⁴. More importantly, the methods of election should be administered in a manner that does not result in discrimination against minority voting strength. There are many obstacles confronting Latinos from equal and effective participation in the electoral process,²⁵ perhaps the most pernicious is being racially polarized voting. Such voting occurs when different racial and ethnic groups vote for different candidates. As a result of a racially polarized society, the body politic as manifested in elections is characterized by voting along racial and ethnic lines. If you have a system that maximizes the impact of racially polarized voting in determining electoral outcomes, then a numerical racial and ethnic minority is at a disadvantage and is not participating on a level playing field.

Washington State's at-large method of election serves to exacerbate the impact of racially polarized voting on the electoral process. Under an at-large method of election, there are no regional or neighborhood election districts. For example, in a typical municipality employing an at-large method of election, elections are conducted on a city-wide basis with no smaller election districts. Accordingly, if elections are racially polarized the electoral choices of a numerical racial and ethnic minority will consistently lose.

Alternative election systems such as election districts can serve to minimize the impact of racially polarized voting. A racial and ethnic minority community constituting 40 percent of a municipality can constitute 60 percent or more in a smaller geographic election district. However, district elections are not a panacea for Latino political empowerment since the boundaries of the election districts can be drawn to fragment politically cohesive minority communities into two or more districts, or to over-concentrate them into one super majority minority election district.

In the State of Washington, studies have been conducted that demonstrate the pernicious effects of at-large methods of election that are infected with racially polarized voting²⁶. However, only the tip of the iceberg can be seen. The vast majority of political jurisdictions conduct elections for their governing boards pursuant to at-large election methods. Yet, these governmental entities, for all practical purposes remain invisible. This invisibility needs to be addressed.

²⁴ This remains a goal for many states including the State of Washington. The recent 2004 gubernatorial elections demonstrated how the administration of elections can result in an election that does not inspire voter confidence in the integrity of the electoral process. See Joaquin G. Avila, *The Washington 2004 Gubernatorial Election Crisis: The Necessity of Restoring Public Confidence in the Electoral Process*, 29 Seattle L.Rev. 313 (2006).

²⁵ These include, among others, citizenship requirements as prerequisites for registering to vote, inadequate assistance to voters who are not proficient in English, bilingual election, voter identification and documentation requirements that place unusual economic hardships on Latino eligible voters and felon disenfranchisement laws.

Joaquin G. Avila, Joaquin Avila Fast-Forwards to 2012, *Redistricting Decisions Influence Latino Power*, *Hispanic Link*, Vol. 27, No. 25, August 3, 2009, at p. 1.

²⁶ "The State of the State for Washington Latinos," "Voting Rights and Political Mobilization," see jurisdiction reports. <http://www.walatinos.org/votingRights.cfm> (last visited August 12, 2009).

Recommendations:

Before the issue of minority vote dilution within the context of at-large elections can be addressed there should be a systematic study examining all of the governing entities that conduct elections to determine the type of election system utilized and the level of Latino electoral success and corresponding representation on local governing boards. Recent studies suggest that there is a severe under representation of Latinos on elective governing boards ²⁷. For this reason, a governmental review should be initiated to determine if levels of Latino representations are increasing and whether these levels are commensurate with the representation within the State's population ²⁸.

- To lift this cloak of invisibility and to level the playing field in communities where there are demonstrated patterns of racially polarized voting, a legislative response is required. First the response must address the issue of access to information. The Legislature should require the Secretary of State's office to centralize election information on all governmental entities that conduct elections. This information should consist of the type of election method (at-large, by district, or a combination) the number of elected officials on the governing board, the number of racial and ethnic minority elected officials for each city, school district, county governments, and special election districts. In addition, the governmental entities should be required to forward their election returns to a state center. In this manner local communities can assess whether the racial and ethnic composition of their governing boards are reflective of the communities that they serve. This information should be readily available in an electronic format to facilitate public access.
- Second, the Legislature should adopt a state voting rights act that permits voters to challenge discriminatory at-large methods of election. Such an act can be modeled after the California State Voting Rights Act ²⁹. In sharp contrast to the federal Voting Rights Act ³⁰, where a variety of expert-intensive and expensive evidentiary factors are required to be proven, the state act would focus only on the straightforward question of whether elections are characterized by racially polarized voting. The adoption of such a state act would be a significant step forward in permitting local racial and ethnic minority communities to challenge election systems that result in voting discrimination.

These legislative responses would provide tools that can serve to politically empower Latino communities. Such an outcome is more than just a desirable societal outcome. Rather, our future political and societal cohesiveness will be measured by the degree that heretofore excluded ³¹ racial and ethnic communities can effectively and meaningfully affect electoral outcomes. A high degree of political integration will strengthen the body politic and ultimately bring us closer to those elusive goals of forming a more perfect union, promoting the general welfare and insuring domestic tranquility ³².

²⁷ See, e.g., National Association of Latino Elected Officials (NALEO), 2009 National Directory of Latino Elected Officials (email on file with author) (only 43 Latinos are listed as representatives on city councils and school boards).

²⁸ According to the U.S. Census Bureau in 2000, Latinos constituted 7.5%, while in the middle of the decade Latinos constituted 9.2% of the State's population. This represents a growth of rate of 13.4 percent. See U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, State of Washington, 3 Year Estimates (2005-2007), Table S0201.

See also, id., 2000 Census, Fact Sheet – State of Washington.

²⁹ Cal. Elect. Code §§ 14025-14032.

³⁰ 42 U.S.C. § 1973.

³¹ At one point in the State's history a literacy test was employed to prevent persons who

were not fluent in English from participating in the political process. Pierce's Code, A Compilation of all the Laws in Force in the State of Washington, State Constitution, Article VI, §128 (in order to vote, a person had to "be able to read and speak the English language."). As a result of the 1970 amendments to the 1965 federal Voting Rights Act, literacy tests were outlawed for a five year period. The ban became permanent in the 1975 amendments. See 42 U.S.C. § 1973aa.

³² Preamble, United States Constitution ("WE THE PEOPLE of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this CONSTITUTION for the United States of America"), WestLaw.

About the Author

Joaquin G. Avila is Executive Director of the National Voting Rights Advocacy Initiative and Distinguished Practitioner in Residence at Seattle University School of Law. As an attorney in private practice, Mr. Avila focused exclusively on voting rights issues and litigation in the Southwest. He has an extensive national voting rights background. Mr. Avila attended Yale University, B.A. 1970, and graduated from Harvard Law School, J.D. 1973. Mr. Avila served as a law clerk with the Alaska State Supreme Court. In 1974, Mr. Avila joined the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (M.A.L.D.E.F.), a national Latino civil rights advocacy organization, where he devoted his career in litigation providing minority communities with access to the political process, serving as a staff attorney, director of organization's voting rights program, Regional Counsel in San Antonio, Texas and serving as President and General Counsel. In 1985, Mr. Avila established his private voting rights practice. Mr. Avila has successfully argued cases at the federal district court, appellate circuit, and U.S. Supreme Court levels. Mr. Avila's achievements include many awards and citations. In 1996, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation selected Mr. Avila as a MacArthur Fellow for his work in the voting rights area. Also in 1996, the Vanguard Public Foundation awarded Mr. Avila its Social Justice Sabbatical. Mr. Avila received a proclamation for his contribution to the City of San Antonio, Texas, from then Mayor Henry Cisneros. In addition, the Hispanic National Bar Association granted him their Benito Juarez and Abraham Lincoln Award for outstanding achievements as an attorney. Mr. Avila is married to Sally Avila. The family includes two adult sons, Joaquin E. and Salvador T., and one adult daughter, Angelique M. Contact Information: Off. (206) 398-4117; Mobile (206) 724-3731; E-mail avilaj@seattleu.com.

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- Sam Walton**



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The Commission and Its Activities

- The Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs
- Review of the Commission's Activities 2008
- Review of the Commission's Activities 2009

Alicia Luna, Monica Maria Becerril Ugalde

The Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs (CHA) is a statewide government agency created by a Governor's Executive Order in 1971, mandated by state legislature to improve public policy development and the delivery of government services by providing advice to the Governor, state legislature, and local agencies on issues impacting the Hispanic community.

It's Governor-appointed 11-member advisory board voluntary serve a three year term and can serve two consecutive terms if desired. Commissioners reflect all occupations and walks of life, representing the Commission through involvement in their respective local communities, CHA public meetings, and community functions. All commissioners are assigned to various sub-committees with specific policy foci designed to increase the effectiveness of the Commission's advisory role.

CHA's administrative and legislative work is conducted in Olympia by the Executive Director and executive assistant. Collectively, CHA staff and the commissioners are instrumental in accomplishing the Commission's overall mission to achieve full participation and social equality of Hispanics in Washington State.

The Commission evolved from a strong 1960's grassroots effort in the Yakima Valley and other areas with high farm worker populations to improve conditions for Hispanics in the state. During this time, a group of Hispanic community advocates saw the need to take its concerns to the state in order to advocate for community improvement.

Over the past three decades the Commission has fervently advocated on behalf of Hispanic rights, profoundly involved in legislative and policy changes in the areas of education, health care, farm worker protection, housing, and economic development. Its efforts have significantly and positively impacted the well-being of Washington's Hispanic communities. CHA continues firmly committed to working for a more responsive and representative government that will enhance the overall conditions for Hispanics and ultimately benefit all the residents of Washington State.

During the past two years, CHA has worked to sustain and increase the voice of the Commission within state government and the Hispanic community. CHA also worked to build cohesive relationships with government officials, state agencies, and community organizations to increase the number of bilingual staff and cultural competency in the provision of state agency services, outreach to Latino small business owners, reduce the education gap amongst Hispanic students, and other Latino community concerns. Ultimately, the Commission seeks to raise government officials' understanding and awareness regarding the ways state policy and legislation affect the everyday lives of Hispanics in our state.



The Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs



The substantial growth rate of Washington's Hispanic population has amplified the number and nature of issues needing attention throughout the state. This has led to the expansion of CHA's agenda to include issues such as youth violence, community outreach, immigration, civic engagement, parental involvement, bilingual services, and voter participation. Today, more than ever, the role of the Commission is imperative in shaping policy in the state.

Recap of CHA's 2007-09 Agenda

This report summarizes CHA's impacts, achievements and works in progress for the period 2007-2009

In 2007-09 the Commission devoted a substantial amount of time building and strengthening strategic partnerships, expanding community outreach, promoting education initiatives, and identifying and improving process effectiveness (see 2007-09 CHA Activity Time Allocation graph). Much of the focus during this time was

on issues related to the educational achievement gap, economic vitality, equal opportunity, and Latino leadership and civic and political engagement. These core issues are considered central to the development and implementation of a strategic plan designed to achieve greater optimal improvement in the lives of Hispanics. In addition to these issues, between 2007 and 2009 the Commission addressed a variety of other concerns.

Education

In 2007-09 the Commission addressed issues related to:

- The Hispanic Education Achievement Gap
- Parent/Family involvement in schools
- The Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL)

Of notable mention is the Hispanic Education Achievement Gap study conducted by University of Washington Professors Francis E. Contreras, Tom Stritikus and their student research team. The study, which was conducted in 2008 and presented to the House and the Senate as well as the Washington State Board of Education, revealed that a persistent achievement gap exists between Latino students and their non-Latino white peers. Seven key findings were identified along with proposed recommendations. The study can be found on the CHA Website: www.cha.wa.gov.

The study provides groundwork for further efforts to identify the best practices and models for school reform that will decrease the achievement gap for Hispanic students. In partnership with the University of WA and KCTS V-me, CHA held a Latino Education Summit in Seattle bringing together hundreds of Latino educators from throughout the state to ensure that the key findings and recommendations are not shelved and forgotten.



CHA initiated a review of the Migrant/Bilingual program. This project was the result of our continuing partnership with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction Terry Bergeson. Also, in partnership with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and the Educational Ombudsman, a parent resource guide was developed to help improve parental involvement in the education process.

In partnership with the Center for the Improvement of Student Learning (CISL), through their Student Leadership Program, CHA identified fifteen school districts where a plan will be developed for outreach information sharing for students and parents.



CHA also co-sponsored the first Latino Parent Involvement summit along with Tacoma Community College and participated in the Heritage Leadership program with at-risk-junior high youth in the Federal Way School District.

CHA continues to partner with Ricardo Sanchez and the Latino/a Educational Achievement Project (LEAP). The Commission co-sponsored the annual LEAP conference, held workshops, attended their annual dinner, and supported their efforts to make the DREAM Act a reality.

These activities represent a small sampling of the extensive work undertaken by the Commission in the area of educational improvement. This work demonstrates a strong commitment to an equitable educational experience across the student population in order to foster academic excellence among Hispanics and other underachieving groups in the state.

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If you use payday loans, you should know the Washington State Legislature passed two new payday lending laws

– one of which will have significant impact on how you use payday loans.

The Washington Department of Financial Institutions (DFI) wants you to know how these changes may impact your financial life.

- You may only borrow a total of \$700 or 30% of your gross monthly income - whichever is LESS.
- Your information will be registered in a state-wide database, ensuring that all payday lenders have your most up-to-date loan information.
- You may only take 8 payday loans per 12-month period.
- If you are unable to repay your loan, before your loan is due you may request an installment plan with no additional fees.
- If you currently have an installment plan, you may not have another loan.
- Lenders may NOT harass or intimidate you when collecting a loan.

Before taking a payday loan DFI urges consumers to verify the licensing status of any payday lender they're considering taking a loan from. (Go to www.dfi.wa.gov and click on "verify a license" to enter the payday lender information into the database query form.) All payday lenders offering services to WA residents — including Internet payday lenders — are required by state law to be licensed by DFI before doing business in our state. Some online payday lenders offer services that are not legal in Washington.

For more information, contact DFI



1-877-RING-DFI (746-4334) ■ www.dfi.wa.gov/consumers/education/payday_loans.htm

The Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs



Equal Opportunity

Efforts regarding equal opportunity were also significant. From 2007-2009 the Commission worked towards:

- Increasing partnerships with state agencies
- Greater community outreach
- Review interpretation and translation services for monolingual Spanish speakers

In an effort to improve interpreting and translating services available to the Hispanic community, the Commission worked jointly with the Department of Social and Health Services to identify promising and effective methods to reach out to this group. Commissioners were also involved with the Agency Council on Health Care Disparities to address Hispanics' need for affordable health care.

Commissioners and staff also met with the Department of Licensing to address concerns regarding the new driver's license requirements. CHA used local radio programming to inform Hispanics regarding the new requirements and their rights.

CHA also participated in several immigration forums. One example is the Lynnwood Diversity Commission meetings and task force. The community group worked to deliver actionable recommendations to the Diversity Commission and mayor to address Hispanic residents' concerns about the Lynnwood Police Department's treatment of immigrant residents in the community.

Community Outreach

The Commission significantly influenced changes in local areas by:

- Partnering with community organizations, state agencies, and local businesses
- Providing informative legislative information in Spanish
- Holding offices in local organizations

The Commission has collaborated with various organizations such as the Latino Community Resource Group to promote community awareness and volunteerism as a way of preserving culture, unifying Hispanic residents, and improving overall quality of life. Commissioners have participated in their local communities, holding board positions and attending city council meetings where education, gang issues, housing and other concerns were addressed.

Through our Washington State Latino Owned Business Outreach Committee (WALOBO), a consortium of state agencies including the Attorney General's Office, Lottery, Labor & Industries, Department of Revenue, Department of Licensing, Employment Security, Department of Financial Institutions, Secretary of State, Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprise, and Liquor Control Board, we launched a pilot radio program providing joint outreach to monolingual and bilingual Spanish speaking residents of Yakima and surrounding areas. The objective was to provide Washington Latinos with information regarding the services that are provided at no cost by state agencies, answer questions, and demonstrate the accessibility of state services.

Live radio broadcasts in the Yakima Valley region also took place on a weekly basis from 2007 through 2009 to keep Spanish speaking communities informed on issues and information of relevance particularly during the legislative sessions.

The Commission also collaborated with state agencies to assist Hispanic entrepreneurs looking to start their own business, co-sponsored the Latina Style Magazine Business Summit in Seattle, and in partnership with University of

Washington's Dan J. Evans School of Public Affairs co-produced "Keeping Count: an assessment of the Data on Washington's Latino-Owned Businesses". This report can be found at: http://cha.wa.gov/?q=resource_links and <http://cha.wa.gov/?q=files/FINALWALatino-OwnedBusinessReport.pdf>.

CHA collaborated with the Attorney General's Office on various projects including participation in a Pasco Town Hall meeting for Latino consumers that addressed car sales, notaries, and other consumer protection issues. The Commissioners also joined Attorney General Rob McKenna in recording PSAs regarding car sales and notaries that were broadcast on various Spanish radio stations.

The Commission also worked to increase financial literacy for Hispanics. In partnership with the Department of Revenue, a Spanish language CD containing financial information as well as translated financial documents were produced and are now available. This information may be found at: <http://dor.wa.gov/Content/FindTaxesAndRates/espanol>. CHA also collaborated with the Department of Financial Institutions and co-sponsored a Spanish radio program to educate Hispanics on financial issues and produced public service announcements concerning subprime mortgage rates, foreclosure fraud, and pay-day loans. Finally, a partnership between Heritage University's Business School and the Department of Financial Institutions was created as a result of the Commissions' efforts to increase financial literacy in the state.

Latino Leadership & Civic Engagement

The Commission promoted leadership and civic responsibility through the following:

- Partnership with United States Hispanic Leadership Institute (USHLI) and the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO).
- Collaboration with the Latino Community Fund.
- Alliance with Executive Directors of the Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois State Hispanic Commissions.

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Workplace Rights

What are your Rights as a Worker?

Washington State law protects the rights of working people. If your employer denies you your rights, the Washington Department of Labor & Industries can help you.

You have the right to:

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- **Rest breaks and meal period.** You have the right to a paid 10 minute rest break for each four hours you work. You must be allowed a meal break of at least 30 minutes about midway through your shift.
- **A safe and healthy workplace.** If you think an unsafe condition exists, tell your employer or call 1-800-423-7233. You can ask that your name remain anonymous.
- **Help if you are hurt on the job.** If you are hurt on the job, notify your employer, go to a doctor and file a workers' compensation claim. The doctor should help you fill out the form. We will pay for medical bills related to your injury and often replace some of your wages if you need time off to recover.
- **Protection from discrimination.** It is against the law for your employer to discriminate against you for reporting unsafe conditions or filing a workers' compensation claim for an injury or occupational disease. Call us if this happens.

For more information call the Office of Information and Assistance at 1-800-547-8367



Washington State Department of
Labor & Industries



The Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs



In collaboration with the National Association of Latino Elected Officials (NALEO), CHA held a voter engagement meeting in Ellensburg. CHA was also a convening partner in the NALEO Educational Fund's Healthy Communities Initiative held in Seattle; it was this meeting that led to the Ellensburg meeting. The United States Hispanic Leadership Institute's (USHLI) mission to cultivate the next generation of Latino leaders by promoting Latino unity, education, and leadership development has resulted in CHA partnering with that group. In 2008, this partnership led to the decision by USHLI's president, Dr. Juan Andrade, to include the northwest in the organization's leadership outreach efforts.

CHA also participated in USHLI's 18th Annual Chicago Conference where they teamed up with other Hispanic commissions in the country to deliver workshops and communicate the need and the importance of collaboration with community organizations in order to enhance and leverage our work.

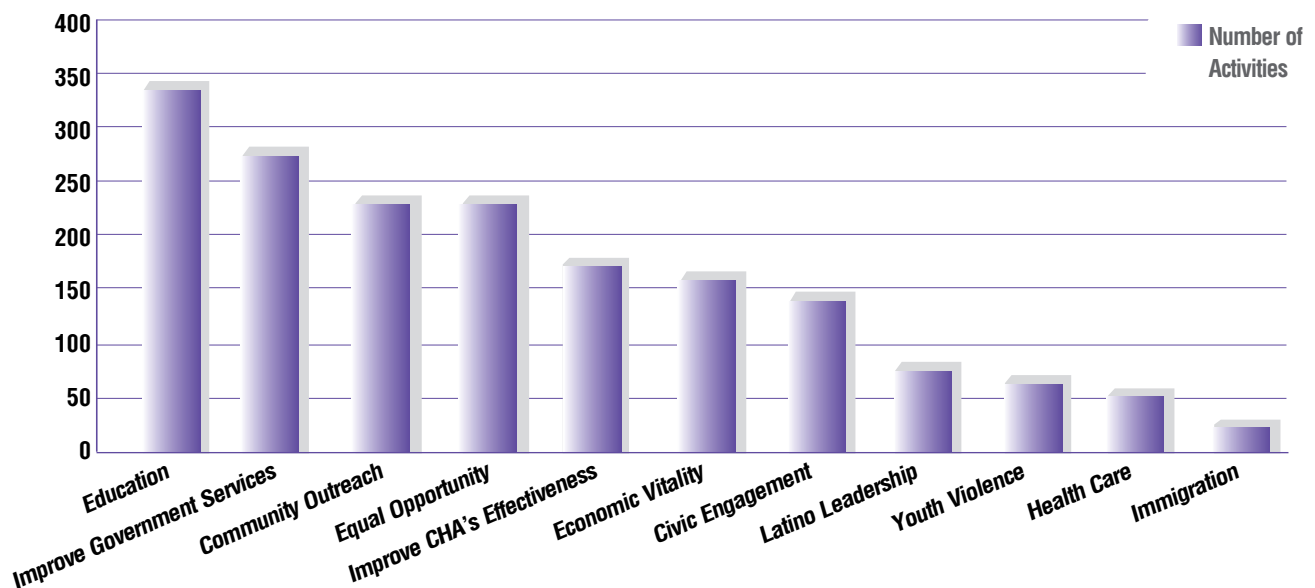
Continuing its leadership development initiative, CHA co-sponsored the state's first Leadership Conference in October 2008 in conjunction with the Latino Community Fund with the intent to make it an annual event. The focus of the 2008 conference was leadership and the promotion of civic and political engagement.

In 2009 we presented the first "CHA Community Award" established exclusively to recognize the unsung heroes whether individuals or organizations that through their generous and inspiring efforts touch and enrich lives as well as inspire hope in the communities we serve. Through this award we saluted their unwavering spirit, energy, and commitment to give of themselves to the betterment of their communities.

CHA also continues to work closely with the Hispanic/Latino Legislative Day Organization. Collaboration with this group provides another opportunity to advocate and promote leadership as well as civic and political engagement in the state.

The Commission will continue to advocate for the well-being of Washington's Hispanic communities in the coming years. The ultimate benefit of this work extends beyond the state's Hispanics: ultimately all the state's residents benefit from fair and equitable treatment.

CHA's 2007-2009 ACTIVITY TIME ALLOCATION



2008 Legislative Session Review

Public policy affects all members of society. Because of this it is imperative that all state residents remain engaged in the political process and informed about the ways in which policy is developed and implemented in Washington State.

CHA is committed to working to provide a strong voice for Washington's Latino community by developing and advocating for equitable public policy solutions to the urgent issues facing Washington's Hispanics. Because of this we have tracked bills that directly impact Hispanic constituents. However the Commission urges you join us and participate in the political process.

The 2008 Legislative Session was marked by caution. While Washington State had a projected short-term surplus of over a billion dollars in January, a slowdown in the national economy and a slight downturn in the forecasted surplus for Washington State prompted the governor and legislators to focus on securing ample rainy day funds instead of making new investments.

Although touted by the media as a tame session with legislative leaders hesitant to stir controversy heading into an election year, several high profile issues made their way into the political spectrum. Issues included the taping of executive sessions, expansion of civil liability in wrongful death cases, funding for the Sonics, the creation of a "UW North" in Snohomish County, the imposition of tolls on state roadways, a financing plan for the 520 bridge, DUI checkpoints, climate change, and public financing of campaigns.

The 2008 Legislature saw the introduction of 1,747 bills (969 in the House and 778 in the Senate). Of these 341 of which passed (174 House bills and 167 Senate bills).

For the Commission, Legislative Session 2008, though short (60 days), kept us engaged tracking 116 bills related to Education, Health Care, Housing, Justice & Equity, and Business Development. It was invigorating and refreshing watching our young interns researching and writing testimonies, attending hearings, and providing information to Legislators on the relevance and impact of legislation to the Latino community. Although unfamiliar with the legislative process, they persevered with determination, enthusiasm, and teamwork. A special thank you to: Don Barker, Susan Jones, and Nicole Peger for their outstanding contributions.

In the area of Education, we tracked 40 bills

- Five bills dealt with the WASL content, results, postponement, etc.
- Six bills associated with high school graduation requirements.
- Ten bills; five associated with higher education, five with tuition incentive programs and one limiting tuition increases at state colleges and universities.
- Four bills associated with English Language Learners; enhancing resources and assistance as well as graduation requirements.
- Six bills; one recodifying basic education, one establishing a state report card for education, one recognizing disability history in the public education system, one requiring school district accountability for students missing school, two regarding adult literacy and youth programs, and one regarding workplace e-learning.
- Four bills; one regarding bilingual teacher mentoring, one regarding math and science teachers, one creating a task force to study teaching Spanish and Chinese in public schools, and one creating the position of world language supervisor in the office of the superintendent of public instruction.
- One bill authorizing pilot grants to establish first teacher parent mentor programs and one regarding the creation of the Washington head start program.

Review of the Commission's Activities 2008

Important Education bills:

- **SHB 2810** will provide enhanced resources for school districts with a high number of ELL students.
- **EHB 2607** will develop recommendations for increasing teacher knowledge and skills when addressing the needs of an ELL student.
- **SB 6377** creates a grant program to expand career and technical education programs to prepare students for degrees or apprenticeships. It's expected this legislation will help lower a 30 percent school drop-out rate. The capital budget contains \$5.1 million to expand skills centers in Washington. The Legislature also provided \$18 million in learning assistance funds to help struggling students at risk of not graduating.
- **HB 3168** which requires a study of how to best align the current state pre-K program (Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program or ECEAP) with the federally funded Head Start program.

In the area of Health Care we tracked 17 bills

- Five bills; one establishing the WA Health Partnership, a citizens work group on health care, reforming the health care system, establishing the Guaranteed Health Benefit Program Act, and requesting Congress enact a universal health plan.
- Two bills; one providing Medicaid coverage for youth temporarily placed in juvenile detention and one providing health insurance options for youth adults.
- Two bills; one allowing the delegation of nursing tasks to care for persons with diabetes and one allowing DOH to apply for federal funding for abstinence for adolescents.
- Two bills; one providing health insurance for small employers and their employees and one defining small employers for purposes of health insurance.
- Three bills; one creating the Children's Health & Protection Advisory Council, one establishing a project to improve asthma care for Medicaid eligible children and one providing certain public notices in a language other than English.
- Three bills; one concerning the practice of dentistry, one concerning advanced registered nurse practitioners, and one modifying credentialing standards for counselors.

Important Health Care bills:

- SB 6333 establishes a task force to seek public input on several health care reform proposals.
- HB 2640 would have provided universal health care for all Washingtonians for catastrophic care, unfortunately it did not pass.

The care would be provided for through a payroll tax. While it did not advance this session, it does provide an outline for upcoming discussions about healthcare.

It was disappointing that little was done to increase access to health care, even though more than 90 bills were introduced.

Economic Development – 10 bills tracked

- One bill was for increasing the small business credit for the business and occupation tax and one relating to excise tax relief for small businesses.
- One bill dealt with creating the Community Development Fund; one creating the building communities fund program, and one creating the community revitalization partnership program.
- One bill established a plan to improve the effectiveness of the Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises
- One bill added an additional payment plan option for small loans.

- One bill increased the availability of funds for the time certificate of deposit investment program.
- One bill expanding financial literacy through education and counseling to promote greater homeownership security.

Important Economic Development bills:

ESSB 6809 - Provides a tax exemption for working families measured by the federal earned income tax credit.

EHB 3360 – Increases the availability of funds for the time certificate of deposit investment program.

SB 6272 – Expands financial literacy through education and counseling to promote greater home ownership security.

Housing

Eight of the bills tracked by CHA dealt with affordable homeownership as well as responsible mortgage lending and financial literacy promoting homeownership security.

Important Housing bills:

SHB 2270 – Enacts the governor's homeownership security task force recommendations regarding responsible mortgage lending and homeownership.

SB 7461 – Protects consumers by regulating loans under the consumer loan act and mortgage broker practices act.

Law Enforcement – 9 bills tracked

- Three bills; one providing provisional drivers' license for persons who fail to prove US citizenship and two verifying the legal residency of applicants for drivers' licenses, identicards, and instruction permits.
- Two bills; one requiring law enforcement agencies to enter into assistance compacts with the federal department of homeland security to help enforce immigration laws as they pertain to certain sex offenders and one requiring authorities to determine immigration status of sex offenders.
- Two bills; one regarding the service of process in domestic violence cases and one regarding employment leave for victims' of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.
- Two bills; one creating a sobriety checkpoint program and one allowing permanent resident cards for the purchase of liquor.
- One bill amending the Constitution to establish English as the official language of Washington.

Important Law Enforcement bills:

SHB 2602 – Regarding employment leave for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. The new law, effective April 1, 2008, aims to “reduce the devastating economic consequences” for victims of these crimes and to better protect their safety.

Juvenile Justice – 9 bills tracked

- Three bills; one addressing juvenile re-entry programs, one extending juvenile treatment programs, one creating a pilot program to increase family participation in juvenile offender programs, and one concerning criminal street gangs.
- Three bills; one concerning juveniles in the custody of law enforcement officers, one notifying parents, guardians, and custodians when a juvenile is taken into custody, and one requiring notification of office of family and children's ombudsman in cases involving multiple reports of child abuse or neglect.
- Two bills; one creating a child labor exemption and one addressing the marketing of controlled substances to minors.

Review of the Commission's Activities 2008

Important Juvenile Justice bills:

SHB 2551 – Expands the types of treatment programs provided under the suspended disposition alternative for juveniles.

E2SHB 2712 – Concerning criminal street gangs.

Great strides, however, were taken in the public safety arena with new community protection against sex offenders, drunk drivers, and street gangs. Of great disillusionment were the changes made to **E2SHB 2712**, Criminal Street Gangs. This bill was originally written to include funds for the development of programs that focused on prevention thus enabling communities to address gang related problems. Regrettably this language was taken out of the bill; leaving us with great concern for our community, as well as all communities in Washington State. It is imperative that we remain proactive in addressing this issue and willing to take the necessary measures to reduce this type of activity amid our youth.

Consumer Protection

We tracked a total of six bills that were mostly associated with the purchase of motor vehicles and affordable auto insurance for the low income as well as the establishment of a Washington identity theft analysis center. None passed.

Farmworker Protection

The seven farmworker protection bills were mostly associated with the limited use of high hazard pesticides in schools, monitoring of pesticide drift, establishing a pesticide use reporting system, and addressing pesticide registration and license fees. In addition we tracked two bills associated with creating an agricultural worker safety grant program and limiting the nonagricultural work week of minors sixteen and seventeen years old. None passed.

Worker Protection

We only had four worker protection bills which included establishing family and medical leave insurance, providing collective bargaining for child care center directors and employees, providing unemployment compensation during labor disputes, and amending the Constitution to provide equal pay for equal work; none passed.

Overall, the Legislature sent a number of significant bills to the Governor this year including SB 5261, granting the Insurance Commissioner veto authority over health benefit rate increases; SB 6580 incorporating climate change into the Growth Management Act; and SB 6809 providing a state tax credit for low income families.

On the budget front, perhaps the most important figure was the amount that the House and Senate leaders left in reserves: \$850.2 million. The budget for the biennium grew by over \$300 million; most of the extra money went to education expenses, such as increases for teacher salaries and expanded all-day kindergarten program.

State Budget Funding

HB 2687, 2765, SB 6378, SB 646 – Supplemental operating and capital budgets

The final supplemental budgets maintain funding levels for domestic violence shelter and advocacy programs, as well as funding for civil legal services. One of the highlights of the capital budget was that it added another \$50 million to the Housing Trust Fund, which is the primary source of funding for building domestic violence shelters and transitional housing. The budget also adds \$2.5 million for the Transitional Housing Operations and Rental program (THOR), \$6 million for the Homeless Families Services Fund, \$750,000 to the Office of Crime Victims' Advocacy to contract with prosecuting attorneys' offices to support victim-witness services in each county, \$6.2 million to begin implementing the Family Medical Leave Insurance program that was passed in 2007, and \$800,000 to implementation of the Washington State Family and Juvenile Court Improvement plan.



WASHINGTON STATE MIGRANT COUNCIL

The Washington State Migrant Council is a non-profit organization which strives to transform lives by focusing on early learning and a family support structure that provides opportunity for growth and success for families living within the communities we serve.

FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDED PROGRAMS SUCH AS:

- Migrant and Seasonal Head Start
- Head Start
- Early Head Start
- Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP)
- Child and Adult Care Food Program provided by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Allow the Washington State Migrant Council to provide free services and support to over 3,900 eligible children and their families in (9) counties throughout the State of Washington. Income and age eligibility may vary from program to program due to funding constraints and space limitations.



AGE ELIGIBILITY:

Pregnant mothers and children ages six (6) weeks to five (5) years of age, following school district cut-off date (8-31)

SERVICES OFFERED IN THE AREAS OF:

- Education - Parent Involvement
- Health - Nutrition - Transportation
- Disabilities - Family Literacy and Family Services In General

Washington State Migrant Council

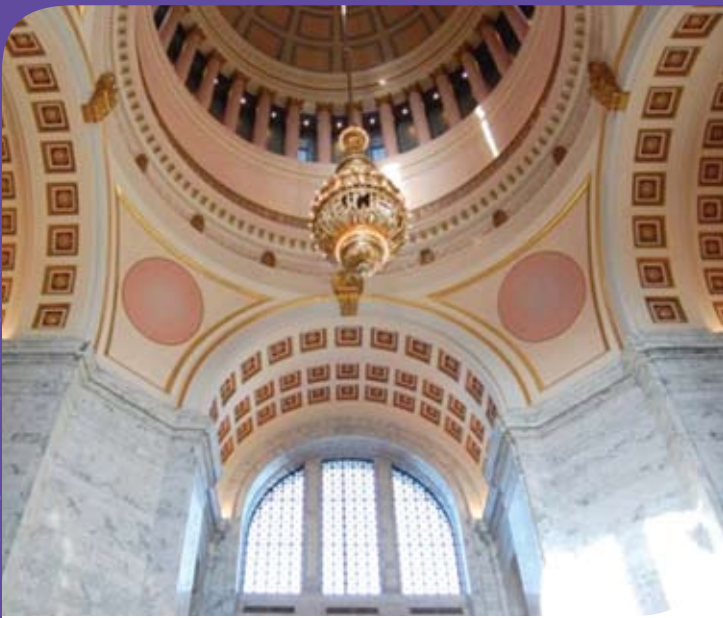
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Review of the Commission's Activities 2009



The 61st Legislative Session of 2009 carried out the toughest budget challenge in decades.

Washington State's Legislature and Governor dealt with an unprecedented \$9 billion budget; a full 25 percent of the state's general fund and one of the worst state budget deficits in the nation. Tensions ran high, tempers often flared, and trust was shaken during the long 105 day session. The 583 bills that were passed surpass the previous record of 547 in 1987. The focal point of the distress was the 2009-11 Operating Budget which resulted in over \$3 billion in programmatic reductions in all areas of government.

The shortfall was caused by a severe nation-wide recession. The lack of consumer spending led to a reduction of revenue from sales taxes. This, coupled with the ongoing increases in the cost to maintain state government programs and services made it extra hard for our state. In spite of the substantial relief from the federal government to help keep and protect major health, education, and public safety services, there were considerable cuts to many services throughout the state.

Some of the areas hit the hardest included:

- Lower reimbursements for human service providers that affected access to services for children and the elderly.
- Higher college and university tuition with a decrease in enrollment opportunities while college class size went up.
- Less health care coverage for low income working people because Basic Health Plan enrollment was cut by 40,000 slots.
- K-12 schools will see cuts to class-size reduction funds that will create larger classes for students throughout WA state.

As a united community we will have to work together to deal with the many cuts to programs and services. Significant reductions in administrative support and operational funding mean fewer people to deliver services. These difficult times will no doubt test our skills and determination. However, collectively we can rise to the challenge and find ways to help deal with the impact of these cuts.

In a year of historic recession and massive budget cuts, the 2009 Legislature also brought us victories for our children. The Children's Alliance achieved remarkable success in protecting programs for children.

- Apple Health for Kids program funded for children up to 300 percent of the federal poverty level, preserving coverage for moderate- and low-income children.
- Outreach efforts to enroll eligible children in Apple Health for Kids and otherwise support families in getting the health care they need for their children got \$850,000 in the final state budget.
- The legislature passed a bill (<http://www.apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=2128>) to streamline enrollments and renewals in the Apple Health for Kids program. The bill also calls for improved outreach activities.

- DSHS will now pay the same rates for natural versus Caesarian-section deliveries with the goal of lowering the C-section rate.
- Children in Apple Health for Kids will continue to get 20 therapy visits a year for mental health needs.
- Foster Care – Despite efforts to eliminate many boards and commissions, The Washington State Racial Disproportionality Advisory Committee was preserved and secured funding for an evaluation of the practices recommended by Department of Social and Health Services to reduce racial disproportionality in the foster system.
- Early Learning - Through coordinated efforts by the Early Learning Action Alliance and the Washington State Home Visiting Coalition, instead of eliminating the evidence-based home visiting programs, the legislature reduced funding to 1.492 million and retained the Council for Children and Families (CCF) to administer the programs.
- In addition, the state crossed a major milestone for early learning in the 2009 legislative session: Early learning for at-risk three- and four-year-olds is now included in the definition of basic education, making it part of the state's responsibility under the constitution.
- Ending childhood hunger; Children's Alliance helped protect more than \$10 million in state funding for elimination of the co-pay for all school breakfasts and school lunches in K-3rd grade, the Meals for Kids breakfast subsidy, start-up funding for breakfast, lunch and summer meals, and a small subsidy for summer meals.

Although CHA faced the possibility of elimination and or consolidation, as did the many other boards and commissions, we carried on with business as usual. We tracked 80 bills and wrote testimonies on 23 bills. This year again, we were fortunate to have had four young interns (St. Martin's University) assisting us in researching and writing testimonies, attending hearings, and providing information to Legislators on the relevance and impact of legislation to Latino communities. A special thank you to St. Martin's University, in particular Dr. Taylor as well as interns Jessica Edwards, Breanna Klassen, Jeremy Sawyer, and Raymond Perez!

Health

Healthcare cuts total over \$1 billion; including major cuts in:

- Programs like the Basic Health Plan (43% cut) and Healthy Options, which serves low and moderate income people.
- Payments to hospitals for Medicaid patients and other low-income patients.
- Outpatient services for children and adults.
- Community mental health; million in cuts (Medicaid and non-Medicaid and innovative programs),
- Chemical dependency treatment services: \$15 million in cuts.
- Reduced 30 beds available at Western State Hospital by 2010.
- No cost of living increase (COLA) for state employees the next 2 years.
- Budget and program cuts in both DSHA and DOH.
- Pediatricians and other pediatric health providers won't get the raise they were promised back in 2007.
- The state is getting rid of its Universal Purchase program, which buys and distributes vaccines for all children as a strategy to boost vaccination rates.
- Public Health programs took a \$4 million cut in state support.
- The Foster Care Health pilot program was eliminated.
- A number of programs first funded in the 2008 supplemental budget were cut entirely, including lead poisoning screenings, the cord blood pilot project, and rare blood and marrow collection.
- The Pesticide Advisory Board and the Pesticide Incident Reporting and Tracking Review Panel were also eliminated.

These cuts will undoubtedly have a profound impact on patients and clients.

Review of the Commission's Activities 2009

Healthcare Bills tracked by CHA that passed

ESHB 2128 – Concerning health care coverage for children

Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) is required to:

- Modify outreach, application, and renewal procedures to increase enrollment and enrollment rates, and renewals and renewal rates;
- Use an eligibility card that identifies a child as a participant in the Apple Health for Kids Program;
- Develop performance measures that show children in the Apple Health for Kids Program are receiving health care from a medical home and whether the overall health of enrolled children is improving; and
- Appoint an Apple Health executive to oversee the Apple Health for Kids program.

SSB 5360 – Establishing a community health care collaborative grant program

- The Community Health Care Collaborative (CHCC) Grant Program is established to further efforts of community-based coalitions to increase access to appropriate, affordable health care, especially for employed, low income persons and children in school who are uninsured and underinsured.
- The HCA is authorized to award two-year grants with funds appropriated for this purpose.
- On July 1 of each even-numbered fiscal year, HCA must provide the Governor and the Legislature with an evaluation of the program, including its impact, results of performance measures, and recommendations.

Bills that did not pass included:

- Two bills regarding language access services.
- Two on the Basic Health Plan and one on health insurance for young adults
- Two regarding Health care systems for non-subsidized state healthcare for children.
- One bill each on grants for community based healthcare programs; healthcare coverage for all children by 2010; comprehensive health options; and eligibility of foreign medical school graduates.

Education

K-12 Education budget was cut by 1.4 billion. Major reductions in education were:

- \$600 million reduction in the Initiative 728 per student allocations to school districts
- \$557 million reduction from the amount needed to continue the current level of programs and activities at the state's public colleges and universities

The influx of federal dollars following Congress' adoption of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act saved the Legislature from making more devastating cuts.

Restructuring of the state's education finance system was a major focus and a major point of contention. Bills were made to implement recommendations of the Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance and additional bills were introduced to implement an education funding plan proposed by the Full Funding Coalition. The dialog became extremely contentious and fierce, however, in the end; legislation was ultimately adopted committing the state to a major overhaul of its basic education financing system. Unfortunately, the bill does not include funding to support the restructured K-12 finance system it envisions.

A package of bills was also introduced to repeal, suspend or amend a whole series of unfunded mandates. In the end, only one of the bills was successfully adopted. The most positive impact of the discussion was that legislators were forced to think long and hard about unfunded mandates and consciously decide whether or not they should introduce or adopt certain bills.

As the Legislature, the Quality Education Council and multiple working groups begin to implement a new education finance system, it is incumbent upon us to be involved and ensure the system is implemented successfully. As the State Board of Education continues to develop a statewide accountability system, it is our duty to keep apprised of its work and express our concerns. As OSPI and the State Board continue to redesign the state's assessment system, it is our responsibility to keep an eye on their work.

Education Bills (P-12) tracked by CHA that passed

SHB 1292 – Authorizing waivers from the one hundred eighty-day school year requirement in order to allow four-day school weeks.

- It declares intent to permit school districts with fewer than five hundred students to seek waivers from the school year requirement in order to operate on a four-day school week provided that adequate safeguards are put in place to prevent any negative impact on student learning.

HB 1562 – Changing the requirements for graduating without a certificate of academic achievement or a certificate of individual achievement

- Students graduating through the class of 2012 are no longer required to continue taking the appropriate mathematics assessment annually until graduation.

HB 1943 – Requiring recommendations for preparation and professional development for the early learning and school-age program workforce

- Requires the Professional Development Consortium convened by the early learning advisory council, in partnership with the Department of Early Learning, to develop recommendations for a statewide system of preparation and continuing professional development for the early learning and school-age program workforce.

ESHB 2261 – Concerning the state's education system

- Declares intent to fulfill the legislature's obligation under Article IX of the state Constitution to define and fund a program of basic education for children residing in the state and attending public schools;
- To establish a general and uniform system of public schools; and
- To adopt a schedule for the concurrent implementation of the redefined program of basic education and the resources necessary to support it, beginning in the 2011-12 school year and phased in over a six-year time period.

For further details see: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/>

The Governor vetoed Sections 115 (early learning program for at-risk three- and four-year olds), and Section 709 (a safety net of resources for students identified as highly capable).

ESSB 5414 – Implementing recommendations of the WASL legislative work group

- Implements recommendations of a 2008 Legislative WASL Workgroup and directs the SPI and the SBE to begin redesigning the system; and directing the SPI to make additional revisions to the WASL to reduce open-ended questions.
- Amends the statutory timelines for implementation of new End-of-Course (EOC) assessments in mathematics and reduces four EOCs into two EOCs that cover common standards between traditional and integrated mathematics courses to be used for graduation purposes.
- Changes the timeline for the SPI and the SBE to identify recommended science curricula.

SSB 5551 – Regarding recess periods for elementary school students

- Requires the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to collaborate with the Washington State Parent Teacher Association to conduct and report the results of a survey of Washington elementary schools to determine the current availability of recess for elementary students and the perceptions of the importance of recess in Washington elementary schools.

2SSB 5676 – Providing for career and technical education opportunities for middle school students

- Provides a middle school that receives approval from OSPI to provide a career and technical program in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics directly to students shall receive funding at the same rate as a high school operating a similar program.
- Additionally, a middle school that provides a hands-on experience in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics with an integrated curriculum of academic content and career and technical education, and includes a career and technical education exploratory component shall also qualify for the career and technical education funding.

SSB 5889 – Providing flexibility in the education system

- Several laws in Title 28A RCW relating to information, notice and reporting requirements, and curriculum and assessment mandates are repealed, suspended, or amended.

2SSB 5973 – Closing the achievement gap in order to provide all students an excellent and equitable education

- Requires disaggregation of all student data-related reports required by the superintendent of public instruction under Title 28A RCW (common school provisions) by at least the following subgroups of students: White, Black, Hispanic, American Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian, Pacific Islander/ Hawaiian Native, low income, transitional bilingual, migrant, special education, and students covered by section 504 of the federal rehabilitation act of 1973.
- Requires the professional educator standards board to convene a working group with expertise in a wide array of cultures and cultural contexts to identify a list of model standards for cultural competency and make recommendations to the education committees of the legislature on the strengths and weaknesses of those standards.
- Requires the office of the superintendent of public instruction to provide guidance to school districts where data indicates significant achievement gaps among subgroups of students and for large numbers of those students.
- Requires the Center for Improvement of Student Learning (CISL) to work in collaboration with the ethnic commissions and representatives from the five achievement gap study groups commissioned in 2008 to review the challenges and solutions addressed by the five achievement gap study groups' reports and develop a plan for implementation of strategies intended to address the achievement gap. It also provides that the act is null and void if appropriations are not approved.

Higher Education Bills tracked by CHA that passed

HB 1328 – Associate Transfer Degrees

- Technical colleges will be allowed to offer Associate transfer degrees that prepare students for entry into professional fields.

2SHB 1355 – Opportunity Internship Program

- Creates the Opportunity Internship Program to provide incentives for local consortia to build educational and employment pipelines for low income high school students in high demand occupations in targeted industries.

- Offers outreach, internships, pre-apprenticeships, counseling and up to one year of financial aid through the State Need Grant, and the promise of a job interview if the student completes a postsecondary program of study.
- Provides a \$2,000 payment to a consortium for each Program graduate who completes a postsecondary program of study and obtains and retains employment in a high demand occupation for at least 6 months.

HB 7071 – Concerning Education for parents and needy families

The WorkFirst IRP requirements are revised and must include:

- An employment goal and a plan to maximize the recipient's success in meeting the goal;
- Consideration of available WorkFirst education and training programs from which the recipient could benefit;
- The obligation of the recipient to participate by complying with the plan;
- A plan for moving the recipient into full-time WorkFirst activities as quickly as possible; and
- A description of services available to the recipient during and after WorkFirst to enable the recipient to advance in the workplace and increase wage earning potential.

SSB 5044 – Student College Info Portal

- Requires the Higher Education Coordinating Board to convene a work group to develop a plan to create a one-stop, web-based college information access portal.

SSB 5734 – Higher Education Tuition Fees

- Extends current tuition-setting authorities through academic year 2012-13.
- Requires the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee to conduct a systemic performance audit of the public baccalaureate institutions.
- Requires the baccalaureate institutions and the community and technical colleges to use any tuition increase above 7 percent to fund the cost of instruction, library and student services, utilities and maintenance of buildings, other costs related to instruction as well as institutional financial aid. Budgetary reductions through 2010-11 to instruction related costs shall be proportionally less than reductions associated with other program areas including administration.
- Requires the baccalaureate institutions and community and technical colleges to consult with student groups before raising tuition and provide data regarding the percentage of students receiving aid, the source of aid, and the percentage of the total cost of attendance paid by financial aid

Education bills tracked by CHA that did not pass included

Education (P-12)

- Five bills regarding a comprehensive system of public education programs, finance, accountability, and closing the achievement gap

Higher Education

- Five bills dealt with higher education tuition, the field of dreams program, incentives to improve on-time graduation rates at institutions of higher education, the opportunity internship program for high school students, and a joint selection committee on Latino accessibility to higher education.
- Four bills regarding resident student eligibility for purposes of the state need grant program, WA college scholarship program, and pre-college courses at public four-year institutions of higher learning.

Economic Development

Bills tracked by CHA that passed

EHB 1087 – Improving the effectiveness of the Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises

- The Office of Financial Management (OFM), in consultation with the Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises (OMWBE) and any advisory committee, must develop a strategic plan to improve the effectiveness of state agencies in assisting small minority and women's business enterprises (OMWBE) in competing for and receiving state contracts.
- OFM must make a preliminary report to the Governor and the Legislature on the plan, and an assessment of progress by September 1, 2009, with annual reports beginning December 1, 2009.

EHB 1167 – Studying the linked deposit program

By December 1, 2009, the OMWBE must, in consultation with the State Treasurer and within existing resources, submit recommendations to the Legislature that address the following issues:

- Availability of sources of capital for certified borrowers, including the amounts and interest rates for that capital;
- Loans not being funded for certified borrowers under the current program and why they aren't being funded;
- Availability of other sources of capital in the marketplace for those non-funded loans of certified borrowers, including the amounts and interest rates for that capital;
- Whether there are other institutions that may be willing to make those loans that are currently not being made to certified borrowers under the Program;
- Whether the Program could be modified to encourage lenders to make those loans that are not currently being made to certified borrowers and whether the cost of those loans would be a barrier;
- A review of how other states seek to increase access to capital for borrowers that traditionally lack access to capital; and
- The role Community Development Financial Institutions could play in mitigating the cost of lending to certified borrowers who are not currently being served by the program.

ESHB 1906 – Unemployment Compensation

- Stimulus for unemployment insurance – Extends and boosts unemployment insurance payments temporarily for those out of work.

SHB 1323 – Workforce and economic development

- Directs state and local economic and workforce development organizations to coordinate among workforce training priorities, the state's long-term economic development strategy, industry cluster assistance, and entrepreneurial development.
- Defines "center of excellence" and directs the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges to designate and fund new and existing centers on a competitive basis.
- Defines "workforce development council" and requires local councils to develop and maintain unified workforce development system plans.
- Requires the state agencies to provide a written progress report by December 15, 2010, on actions taken to achieve the intent and objectives of the act.

SB 5042 – Providing a waiver of penalties for first-time paperwork violations by small businesses

- Agencies must waive fines, civil penalties, or administrative sanctions for first time paperwork violations by small businesses.
- In the event of a second violation or failure to correct the first violation, the agency may reinstate the previously waived penalty and impose any new penalty stemming from the second violation.
- The waiver is not available to a small business whose owner or operator has previously committed a paperwork violation, and cannot reduce a requirement to apply for a permit or license.

SB 5045 – Regarding Community Revitalization Financing

- This legislation creates a new local revitalization financing program. It authorizes cities and counties to create “revitalization areas” and allows certain increases in local sales and use tax revenues and local property tax revenues generated from within the area, additional funds from other local public sources, and a state contribution to be used for payment of bonds issued for financing local public improvements within the revitalization area.
- The state contribution is provided through a new local sale and uses tax that is credited against the state’s sales and use tax.

SB 5286 – Regarding exemptions from the WorkFirst program

- A parent claiming a good cause exemption from WorkFirst participation must not be required to participate in any activities during the first 90 days following the birth of a child.
- DSHS cannot reduce the grant to a single parent household claiming the good cause exemption due to sanction for failing to participate in activities related to mental health treatment, alcohol or drug treatment, domestic violence services, or parenting education or parenting skills training.

SB 5723 – Providing support for small business assistance

- Provides integrated, tailored management and technical assistance services to Washington small businesses
- The state will provide further support by developing procurement policies, procedures, and materials that encourage and facilitate state agency purchase of products and services from Washington small businesses.
- Provides a definition of Washington small business.

Bills tracked by CHA that did not pass

- Two bills on access to state contracting and purchasing opportunities and one on business credit for the business and occupation tax.
 - Two bills on the linked deposit program and one bill creating the WA small business loan reserve program.
- Two bills exempting language service providers from the definition of employment and worker.
- One bill each on temporary assistance to needy families, coordination of workforce and economic development, and improving education and employment opportunities for individuals with criminal records.

Consumer Protection and Housing

Consumers against Auto Fraud worked hard this season on SB 5675 and its companion, HB 1772. This legislation would have required:

- All used car dealers to inspect their cars and disclose significant known defects to consumers before purchase;
- If the car dealer negotiates the deal in a language other than English, then all vital documents must also be translated into that language;
- An increase in the bond that car dealers post to protect consumers from unscrupulous and fraudulent practices; and
- An explicitly prohibition on certain misrepresentations during the sale and financing process.

Unfortunately, given the strong oppositions from the auto dealer industry and the economic climate, the bills died in their respective committees.

While disappointed, we are pleased with the head-way made this session by the Economic Justice Project. Through their hard work and a number of folks who participated in: emails, calls and meeting with Legislators, legislators are now educated about the issue, in particular how low income and working families are affected.

The work done this session laid important ground on which to build next year when we are back in Olympia. In the interim, the Economic Justice Project will be working with the bill’s sponsors in order to ensure that next session will make more progress towards ensuring a fair marketplace for car buyers.

Review of the Commission's Activities 2009

Consumer Protection Bills tracked by CHA that passed

HB 1709 – Providing fee and installment plan assistance for borrowers at risk of default on small loans

- The bill reduces and limits the number of borrowers taking out multiple loans by providing for installment plans that give a borrower a better opportunity to pay off their original small loan without having to resort to taking out a subsequent loan or loans.

HB 1939 – Concerning vehicle dealer documentary service fees

- The documentary service fee that a vehicle dealer may charge on a vehicle sale or lease is increased from a maximum of \$50 to a maximum of \$150 until July 1, 2014. On July 1, 2014, the fee is returned to a maximum of \$50.
- The dealer must disclose to the purchaser or lessee in writing that the documentary service fee is a negotiable fee.

SB 5164 – Placing restrictions on check cashers' and sellers' communications when collecting delinquent small loans

- The scope of the prohibition of threats of legal action is broadened to include the threat of any legal action that the licensee may not legally take. Visits to the borrower's place of employment, impersonation of a law enforcement officer and impersonation of any other governmental official while collecting a loan are also prohibited.

Consumer Protection Bills tracked by CHA that did not pass

- Nine bills regarding setting maximum interest rates, limiting fees and the balance and amount of small loans, restricting, prohibiting, and enforcing eligibility for small loans, revising provisions regarding payment plans, and accessing loans at reasonable rates.
- Two bills regarding consumer protection in the purchase of vehicles.
- Three bills; one each on modifying motor vehicle warranty provisions, regulating persons selling, soliciting, or negotiating insurance, and meeting financial responsibility requirements for autos.
- One bill designating English as the official language in WA State.

Housing Bills tracked by CHA that Passed

EHB 1464 – Concerning affordable housing incentive programs

- Provisions governing affordable housing incentive programs that may be enacted or expanded in jurisdictions planning under the Growth Management Act (GMA) are modified.

SSB 5290 – Concerning request made by a party relating to gas or electrical company discounts for low-income senior customers and low-income customers

- A party to a general rate case hearing, in addition to an electrical or gas company, may request changes to a gas or electric utility's program for low-income senior customers and low-income customers.

ESB 5810 – Concerning Foreclosures on Deeds of Trust

- For deeds of trust made from January 1, 2003, to December 31, 2007, for owner occupied, residential property, a 30-day extension is made to the current timeline for foreclosure.

Housing Bills tracked by CHA that did not pass

- One bill each regarding: regulating reverse mortgage lending practices, regarding state funding for low-income funding, and providing real estate excise tax exemptions to stabilize neighborhood.

Worker Protection

Worker Protection Bills tracked by CHA that passed

HB 1055 – Requiring workers to have licenses, certificates, or permits in their possession when performing work in certain construction trades

- Requires electricians, plumbers, and conveyance workers to have their licenses, certificates, permits, and endorsements and photo identification in their possession while working.

HB 1402 – Restricting contact with medical providers after appeals have been filed under industrial insurance

- After receipt of a notice of appeal, an employer may not contact to discuss the issues in question in the appeal with any medical provider who examined or treated the worker unless the worker provides written authorization for contact.
- After receipt of a notice of appeal, the worker may not have contact to discuss the issues in question in the appeal with any independent medical examination provider who has examined the worker at the request of the employer unless the employer provides written authorization.

HB 1555 – Addressing the recommendations of the joint legislature task force on the underground economy in the construction industry

- Provisions are adopted addressing contractor registration, workers' education and outreach, liens on public works retainage, and unemployment record-keeping.

SB 5613 – Authorizing the Dept. of Labor & Industries to issue stop work orders for violations of certain workers' compensation provisions.

- Authorizes the director of the department of Labor and Industries to issue a stop work order against an employer requiring the cessation of all business operations of the employer if the employer is found to be in violation of certain worker's compensation provisions.
- Penalizes an employer who violates a stop work order in an amount of one thousand dollars for each day not in compliance.

E2SSB 5850 – Protecting workers from human trafficking violations

- International labor recruitment agencies and domestic employers of foreign workers must provide a disclosure statement to foreign workers, not including those persons who hold an H-1B visa, who have been referred to or hired by a Washington employer.

Worker Protection Bills tracked by CHA that did not pass

- Four bills; two requiring employer to pay wages at a rate of not less than \$8.55 per hour over the age of 18 and two bills creating a good defense for certain minimum wage and overtime compensation complaints.
- Two bills establishing requirements for industrial insurance final settlement agreements.
- Two bills prohibiting certain employer communications about political or religious matters.
- Two bills; one making all owners of drywall installation and finish businesses subject to mandatory industrial insurance coverage and one directing the WA Firefighters Association to create and design a special license plate displaying the volunteer firefighter emblem.

Public Safety**Law Enforcement Bills tracked by CHA that passed****2SHB 1052 – Firearm Licenses for Aliens**

- The alien firearm statute is repealed and new requirements for the possession of firearms by non-citizens are established. It is a class C felony for a person who is not a citizen of the United States to possess a firearm in Washington unless the person is: a lawful permanent resident; a non-immigrant alien residing in Washington who has obtained an alien firearm license; or a non-immigrant alien residing outside of Washington who meets certain requirements.

HB 1517 – Restoration of Right to Vote

- This legislation restores the right to vote provisionally to persons convicted of a felony in a Washington State Court when she/he ceases to be in the custody of the Department of Corrections. It also restores the right to vote to persons convicted of a felony in a federal court or any state court other than a Washington State Court, as long as she/he is no longer incarcerated.

Juvenile Bills tracked by CHA that passed**SHB 1505 – Authorizing diversion for sexually exploited juveniles**

- Finds that: (1) Juveniles involved in the commercial sex trade are sexually exploited and they face extreme threats to their physical and emotional well-being; (2) These juveniles are in critical need of comprehensive services, including housing, mental health counseling, education, employment, chemical dependency treatment, and skill building; and (3) A diversion program to provide these comprehensive services, working within existing resources in the counties which prosecute juveniles for prostitution and prostitution loitering, may be an appropriate alternative to the prosecution of juveniles involved in the commercial sex trade.

SSB 5156 – Modifying license suspension provisions for the failure to pay child support

- A responsible parent may request an adjudicative hearing to contest license suspension if the parent believes he or she has made a good faith effort to comply with the support order.

SSB 5881 – Changing provisions involving truancy

- Finds that utilization of community truancy boards, or other diversion units that fulfill a similar function, is the preferred means of intervention when preliminary methods of notice and parent conferences and taking appropriate steps to eliminate or reduce unexcused absences have not been effective in securing the child's attendance at school.

SSB 5882 – Remediating Racial disproportionality in child welfare practices

- Requires the Washington state institute for public policy, within amounts appropriated for this specific purpose or within funding made available by private grant or contribution, to: (1) Evaluate the department of social and health services' use of structured decision-making practices and implementation of the family team decision-making model to determine whether and how those child protection and child welfare efforts result in reducing disproportionate representation of African-American, Native American, and Latino children in the state's child welfare system; and (2) Analyze the points in the system at which current data reflect the greatest levels of disproportionality.

Juvenile Bills tracked by CHA that did not pass

- Two bills protecting registered school students from sexual misconduct by school employees.
- One bill concerning HIV testing of children in out-of-home care.
- One bill searching for relatives of children in out-of-home placements.
- Five bills concerning notifying parents, guardians, and custodians when a juvenile is taken into custody; legal representation of children in dependency proceedings; regarding residential educational program for juveniles found to be gang members; creating a pilot program to increase family participation in juvenile offender programs; and concerning the transfer of juveniles to adult court.

Immigration

Immigration Bills tracked by CHA that passed

2SHB 1052 – Firearm Licenses for Aliens

- The alien firearm statute is repealed and new requirements for the possession of firearms by non-citizens are established. It is a class C felony for a person who is not a citizen of the United States to possess a firearm in Washington unless the person is: a lawful permanent resident; a non-immigrant alien residing in Washington who has obtained an alien firearm license; or a non-immigrant alien residing outside of Washington who meets certain requirements.

Immigration Bills tracked by CHA that did not Pass

HB 1026 – Requires driver's license or identicard to provide documentation that applicant is US citizen or authorized presence under federal law.

HB 2188 – Changes the provisions relating to the early deportation of illegal alien offenders.

SB 5187 – Requires proof of US citizenship on voter registration application.

About the Authors



Alicia Luna is the Executive Assistant for the WA State Commission on Hispanic Affairs (CHA). Ms. Luna has over 20 years experience in the Property Management industry, having worked for Qwest and AT&T where she managed various properties in Washington State including the former Pacific Northwest Bell head quarters building (Seattle) and Data Center building (Bellevue). Alicia partner with Latino leaders, community members, and various organizations that advocate for the advancement of Latinos/as.



Monica Maria Becerril Ugalde is currently finishing her MBA at Willamette University with concentrations in Marketing and Sustainability Management. Monica is a graduate of Willamette University with a BA in International Studies and Spanish. She has served as a tutor and mentor at Willamette Academy for students from the Salem-Keizer school district for the past three years and is now a Marketing Intern.

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